

# Project Green Challenge

Day 6 (GREENEST)

Greetings Governor Otter,

My name is Hannah Daly and I am a student at The University of Idaho, studying Landscape Architecture. I am reaching out to you today to emphasize the importance of Organic Agriculture.

There is a stigma about organic that classifies it as being only for the 1% because it is so expensive. I'm here to lobby that this stigma is untrue and encourage you to be the one to take steps to change it.

Did you know that, according to Nielsen and Edit My research, 25% of Americans choose organic for the majority of their food? That's a lot more than the 1%. Beyond this, a survey conducted by Walmart showed that 91% of the customers would choose organic if it was less expensive. This shows a clear demand for organic by the most average (and largest) class of Americans, not the elite. Imagine the mass of support you would receive if you chose to help remedy the over expense of organic food and brought better food products to your citizens.

In my soils class we are learning about and comparing conventional agriculture to sustainable, and although lesser practiced, sustainable agriculture seems to win every time. Through conventional tillage, the soil of America is getting severely compacted, eroded, and overall damaged. This leads to decreased nutrients, water supply, and crop yield over time. In response, pesticides, heavy irrigation, and increased land are needed. Pesticides are horrible for human health, the world is low on water, land is scarce, and there just doesn't seem to be enough money to go around- so why aren't we changing our system? No-till agriculture leaves the organic matter of past seasons to accumulate, decompose, release nutrients, and prevent erosion, all while the next crop is growing right on top. Did I mention that all of this comes as a natural-free of charge- process? You know all the dark barren fields in our foothills that are taking a season off wheat harvest to "rejuvenate the soil?" There's no need for that. We could be planting wheat year-round, conserving our soils health, and increasing our profits, all while providing hearty organic product. Everyone wins.

I encourage you to think about who votes for you and how you can best aid them. Hint: the largest class in Idaho is not the elite, but the much larger average class. These are the people who would support you if you chose to support organic agriculture in Idaho. Think also of the efficiency and economy gained through organic farming. I appreciate your focus on enhancing Idaho's economic opportunity and I think organic is a solid contender in this emphasis.

I also wanted to thank you for your support of Kate's Real Food factory opening; this alone is why I chose to write to you over all other Idaho officials on this subject. I believe you care about your citizens health and welfare and will be able to see the importance of promoting organic practices in our state.

Thank you,

Hannah Daly

PS. There is an informative Ted Talk on this subject, provided to me by The Project Green Challenge, that is very motivating if you so choose to watch it:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS6TWtYWaPA>. I encourage you to look up the challenge as well: [https://projectgreenchallenge.com/2018-day-7-organic/#pgc\\_challenge\\_tabs|2](https://projectgreenchallenge.com/2018-day-7-organic/#pgc_challenge_tabs|2). Thank you.

-Hannah Daly

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About Your Message

Message Topic\*  
Agriculture

Enter your message to the Governor\*

**Greetings Governor Otter,  
My name is Hannah Daly and I am a student at  
The University of Idaho, studying Landscape  
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Here is the proof of me sending this letter in.

I have not posted my letter to social media because I am unsure of how to post something so long while still having it be effective. I am thinking of shortening it to get the point across that I emailed the governor without posting something so long that people don't take the time to read and the point is lost. I hope this doesn't affect my challenge.