Declaration by Joe Golimbieski

I, Joe Golimbieski, certify and state as follows:

My name is Joe Golimbieski. I reside with my family at 2366 South M76, Standish, Michigan 48658. My wife, children and I own and operate a 70-cow certified organic dairy farm. The farm's gross annual sales are between \$250,000 and \$300,000. We farm approximately 400 acres of pasture, hay, corn, wheat and soybeans. My parents started farming here in the 1950's. I grew up here and I am 45 years old now. My wife and I took over in the late 1980's. I hope to be able to keep the farm in the family for our youngest son shows great interest in it.

Before my wife and I took over the farm it was conventional and we continued to farm it that way for a few more years. We saw that it was not the way we wanted to go, so we decided to go organic.

We have seen big changes since we have gone organic, in our ground and the environment in and around it. We have a lot more different species of birds, insects, amphibians, earthworms, etc. now than we ever had when we were conventionally farming. The water in the creek and ditches runs clearer. The ground stays in place, instead of eroding, because of the use of good soil management and no use of chemicals that would kill the animals and insects. Our dairy operation is closely tied to our crops, with the crops providing feed for the animals (as well as being for sale), and the manure from the dairy providing fertilizer for the fields. If complying with the NAIS regulations takes up too much time, I would possibly be forced to switch from cultivating (manually killing weeds) to spraying, which would harm beneficial bacteria in the soil. Cultivating has to be done at a certain time on the farm whereas spraying can be done anytime.

As a small organic dairy farm, implementation of the NAIS program in Michigan is very disturbing and damaging to us. With the high price of feed, fertilizers, fuel, equipment, seed, transportation, etc., our profit margin is very small already. The tags may be \$2 at this time, but the paperwork and time mean extra labor costs; and the cost of a tag reader (if we opt to buy one) to keep track of the cattle is extra. As an organic dairy, we do not deal with animals in large, isolated groups, so we would not qualify for group identification. The individual identification requirements pose a problem for our farm as we do not have a chute on the property to tag the animals because it is cumbersome and we do not have a good location for it. I will not use a head lock with my cattle because the lock does not keep the animals' head still enough to ensure that the cow's ear is not damaged in the process. As a result, if I want to sell any animal, I have to pay \$5 to the stockyard, which is the current charge for the cost of the tag and the labor. I am at the mercy of whatever price the stockyard decides to charge.

Our farm does not have extra employees just to deal with paperwork, nor can we afford to hire any. Between the costs of the tag and the additional paperwork burdens, NAIS is likely to put us out of business.

NAIS is also against my religious beliefs. I believe that the Bible and God forbid me from taking the mark. The Bible verses below speak about the sin of both taking the mark and forcing others to take the mark.

Deuteronomy 28 Revelations 14:9-10 Revelations 16:2
Revelations 13:16-18 Revelations 14:11 Revelations 19:20
Revelations 14:1 Revelations 15:2 Revelations 20:4

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 6, 2008.

he Delinbush Signed: Joe Golimbieski

5-6-08 Date Notary public, State of Michigan, County of $\frac{Qrenac}{}$. My commission expires $\frac{4-16-2011}{}$.

Sworn to and subscribed before me in my presence, this day

5-6-2008, 2008 by Joe Golimbieski.

Signature Notary Public

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