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For Immediate Release

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Pennsylvania Certified Organic Announces Leadership Transition

Spring Mills, PA — January 13, 2025—Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO), a leading certifier of organic farmers and processors, announces a leadership transition as Diana Kobus steps down as Executive Director.

Effective immediately, PCO’s Board President, Joe Dickson, will serve as Interim Executive Director. In this role, Joe will work closely with PCO’s experienced leadership team to maintain stability and ensure the seamless continuation of services to the farmers and processors who depend on PCO for organic certification.

“PCO remains steadfast in its mission to ensure the integrity of organic certification,” said Joe Dickson. “Our dedicated team will continue to support our clients and uphold the rigorous standards that define organic agriculture. Together, we will navigate this transition and build on the strong foundation PCO has established.”

Reflecting on her time at PCO, Diana Kobus shared, “Working for PCO has given me opportunities ranging from testifying on behalf of the organic community at a Senate Sub-Committee hearing to meeting some of my heroes, including many of our farmers, board members, and brand founders. I’m proudest of the community we built by leading the Transition to Organic Partnership Program in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region, which allowed me to work collaboratively with leaders here and across the country, including the tremendously focused Dr. Jennifer Tucker and her team at NOP. All that, and serving on the board of the Pennsylvania Center of Organic Excellence in the only state with its own Farm Bill and the first-class leadership of Secretary Russell Redding, leaves me with a great sense of accomplishment and confidence for what the PCO team and Pennsylvania will bring to the future of the organic sector.”

Joe Miller, past PCO Board President (2021 - 2024), expressed his gratitude for Diana’s contributions, saying, “I am deeply grateful for Diana's significant work leading the organization

over the past five years. She rebuilt the organization's culture, developed a robust and talented staff, and elevated PCO's standing in the organic community. Her impact will be felt for years to come."

PCO's leadership team will continue to oversee day-to-day operations, working collaboratively to ensure no disruption to the certification process or client services. The Board of Directors has formed an Executive Director Search Committee to ensure a smooth and thoughtful leadership transition. This committee will focus on identifying candidates who align with PCO's mission and values, ensuring the organization is positioned for continued success in the years ahead.

The organization expresses gratitude to its staff, clients, and stakeholders for their continued support and trust during this period of transition. "We are confident in the strength of our team and the resilience of the organic community we serve," added Dickson.

For additional information or inquiries, please contact Joe Dickson at jdickson@paorganic.org or 802-491-7525.

About PCO

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring the integrity of organic products through certification, education, and support. Serving farmers and processors across the contiguous United States, PCO is committed to fostering sustainable agricultural practices and strengthening the organic community.