



Organically Grown Company

Employee and Grower Owned • Promoting Health through Organic Agriculture as a Leading Sustainable Organization

March 30, 2017

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

It has come to our attention that a hearing will take place on April 4th for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program – HB 3249. Oregon's organic agriculture sector has a strong interest in the match funding that this bill would provide for working lands easements, covenants, and conservation management plans, as well as farm succession workshops and a study of the effects of Oregon's estate tax on intergenerational transfer. We urge you to approve this bill to help sustain Oregon's unique agricultural landscape and the tremendous impact that the agricultural sector has on building healthy, and economically viable communities in the state.

Organically Grown Company (OGC) is the largest organic produce distributor in the Pacific Northwest. Founded in Eugene, Oregon in 1978, we are a grower and coworker owned business with offices and warehouses in Eugene and Portland, and cross dock facilities in Medford (OR), and Spokane, and Des Moines (WA). Employing over 280 people, we work with more than 300 farmers including over 50 regionally. We market and distribute fresh organic produce to over 500 retail, wholesale, and restaurant customers throughout the greater Pacific Northwest and beyond. Our trademarked LADYBUG brand represents more than 30 Northwest, family-owned, organic and Salmon-Safe certified farms and is sold in markets across the United States. We are dedicated to supporting and advocating for regional organic and transitioning farmers, particularly small-to-mid-sized growers, whose innovation and success drives a robust and growing local food economy, and enriches our state by growing healthy food in a way that protects our valuable natural resources.

As an aging farmer population looks to pass the baton to the next generation, they are challenged by the daunting and often financially burdensome process of succession planning. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program has the potential to help growers overcome the significant challenges of succession planning and increase the substantial ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, that organic production provides, through the transfer of organic farms to next generation growers and enhanced on-farm conservation.

Sincerely,

David M. Amorose

David Amorose

VP of Supply

Organically Grown Company