

To the Senate Committee on Education, attn: Chair Sen. Michael Dembrow, Vice-Chair Sen. Chuck Thomsen and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of SB 404-2. We are relatively residents of Oregon and we wish to register our support for organic farming/food in general, and SB 404-2 in particular. We've previously lived in Snohomish County, WA, which has many local organic fruits and vegetables, which we supported. We fully believe in the importance of organic foods and shopping at/supporting local farmers. And more locally, our son is committed to establishing a family farm business that is both organic and sustainable, in Amity. We too are committed to treating our 5 acres in a responsible and organic manner, hoping to ensure that we'll leave our children with a healthy potential for utilizing our land for farming, as well.

We are fully in support of the provisions of SB 404-2, including increasing funding for OSU's Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems, creating two new positions in the state's Department of Agricultural, making organic foods eligible for purchasing using WIC vouchers, and particularly for conducting an economic analysis of Oregon's organic foods sector. We believe that the science and the economic value of organic farming speaks for itself, and that a study will validate our beliefs.