

To the Senate Committee on Education

attn: Chair Senator Michael Dembrow, Vice-Chair Senator Chuck Thomsen and Members of the Committee

I strongly support SB 404-2. It's imperative that we finally invest in organic agriculture and business here in Oregon at this time, as it's a win-win-win for consumers, farmers, and the environment. We must start reversing some of the damage done over the past 70 years by conventional industrial agriculture.

I've been purchasing almost exclusively organic food for myself and my cats for 45 years, and believe my/our excellent health is evidence of its benefits on living beings. Pesticides, additives, colorings, fillers, and innumerable chemicals of all kinds are not fit to ingest, and the more we can support the organic sector and normalize organics, the better our collective health will be. A healthier populace uses fewer healthcare resources, saving money for society as a whole. Organic farming also builds healthy soil, which keeps carbon in the ground, while Big-Ag industrial farming depletes the soil with chemical fertilizers, fungicides, and pesticides. And Monsanto (now Bayer) threatens the survival of varieties everywhere with GMO contamination, our current-day Pandora's Box. The local organic community is just that -- local, and a community. Our Farmers' Markets have grown exponentially in spite of playing David to Big-Ag Goliath. It would behoove us to support this segment of the economy for all of its positive tangential benefits on our health, communities, and environment.

Thank you for your service, and your time and consideration of SB 404-2.

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