

RON NOBLE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 24



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 1, 2022

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

RE: SB 1532 A bill to create five Oregon State University Agricultural Extension Agents and an economic assessment of the Oregon organic industry

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Kennemer and committee members,

I am writing to share my support for SB 1532.

In working with farmers and agricultural-based businesses in my district I have heard of a growing need for strategic outreach, research and education that can be provided through Oregon State University's (OSU), Outreach and Extension Service. Agriculture is an important economic engine in my district and the state of Oregon. Leveraging support that helps farmers be adaptive and resilient will be necessary as producers face both challenging weather events, like last summer's heat dome heat wave or excessive rainfall as well as an array of marketplace trends driven by consumers choice.

SB 1532 fortifies the work of OSU Extension by creating 5 agricultural extension agents focused on organic practices to support conventional and certified organic family farmers and ranchers. With these resources, OSU can expand the reach of organic practices that provide benefits to all farmers and increase much-needed applied research. Many of these common practices like cover crops, compost management, crop rotations and efforts to enhance soil health can, when used fittingly, benefit all producers.

Resources that leverage on-farm practice adoption or new crop market growth, to service local or international demand, makes Oregon stronger and better positioned for the future.

I urge the committee to support SB 1532 which creates additional agricultural extension agents as well as resources the economic market analysis needed to better understand the performance and opportunities of organic agriculture.

Respectfully,

Ron Noble
State Representative
House District 24

Office: 900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 - Phone: (503) 986-1424
Rep.RonNoble@oregonlegislature.gov - www.oregonlegislature.gov/Noble

