



March 19, 2023

RE: Opposition to SB 1051

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Board Chair of the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC), based in Lyons, Oregon. The OOC was founded by organic leaders over 15 ago to build unified support for organic advocacy. The OOC has brought together businesses, farmers, organizations, and other stakeholders, to provide direction, advocacy, and support for activities that promote and grow organic practices and the trade in Oregon and beyond.

Broadly, the OOC also contributes to regional advocacy efforts and sees the Pacific Northwest as having great potential for being a leader in organic and regenerative agriculture, with diverse crop offerings. And when rooted in organic's core principles of health, ecology, fairness, and care, the OOC believes organic production can create more equitable and resilient regional food systems.

Access to land is an issue for all of Oregon's agricultural industry, including the organic sector. Preserving farmland is a one piece of the land access puzzle and doing so is a goal of not only the OOC, but many of our coalition members.

The OOC is concerned that UGB expansions driven without broad public participation could impact farmland availability, and respectfully request that the legislature continue to utilize existing land use processes that have led to successful UGB expansions when warranted.

The OOC has testified before the legislature many times about the potential for organic agriculture to bridge the rural/urban divide and build economic development. However, in order realize this potential, farmland must be preserved.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Wong", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Amy Wong - Oregon Organic Coalition