

Submitter: Deirdre Geddes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1058

Dear Chair Lieber and Members of the Committee:

As climate change disrupts our food and agriculture systems, organic practices offer solutions that mitigate adverse impacts, support adaptation towards agricultural and economic resilience, and offer new market opportunities.

We need to protect and energize our communities and land which means increasing our support to farms as they transition or maintain organic certification. There is a huge imbalance in the financial support conventional farmers receive versus organic producers. I work for Hummingbird Wholesale in Eugene Oregon and we see our farmer partners struggling to realize their crops. Offering them additional support is necessary to keep them going and to create long-term investments in our state's organic agriculture.

Oregon is ideally situated to be a leader in the rapidly growing organic industry, which surpassed \$60 billion in 2022, but will need to make both public and private investments in order to fully actualize this opportunity. Oregon is losing ground compared to other organic market-leading states across the country.

Organic farmers are subject to third party verification, rigorous certification processes, and federal standards that mandate practices which, among other benefits, creates the healthy soils found on organic farms. Certification takes three years and is a considerable economic burden on organic farmers that conventional farmers are not subject to.

Organic producers often find themselves on the frontline, trying out new practices and learning through trial and error in pursuit of sustainability innovations—all within strict regulatory confines, and with little federal and state support.

Given the triple bottom line benefits organic can bring Oregon, investments in organic farming and transitioning to organic are smart policy moves. Please support SB 1058
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Sincerely,

Deirdre Geddes
Hummingbird Wholesale