



May 25, 2023

State of Oregon Senate  
Committee on Rules

**Re: Senate Bill 1058-2**

Dear Majority Leader Lieber and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1058-2. I am Peter J. Mihalick, Esq., Senior Director of Government Affairs, submitting this testimony on behalf of the Organic Trade Association (OTA). OTA is the largest membership-based business association for organic agriculture and products in North America - representing \$67 billion in sales in the United States. It is the leading voice for organic trade in the United States representing over 10,000 farms and businesses across all 50 states, including 30 businesses based in Oregon.

OTA appreciates the strong relationship its members have with the Oregon legislature and thanks you for considering and debating legislation which makes a positive impact on organic producers within your state.

We **strongly support SB 1058-2**, which provides state matching funds for producers eligible for the Federal Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP). OTA has included an increase in organic cost-share as a policy in our platform for the upcoming Farm Bill being considered in Congress because of extensive consultations and recommendations by the association's Farmers Advisory Council (FAC), one of the largest coalitions of organic farmers and organic farming organizations in the United States. The FAC represents over 9,500 growers of all sizes from all regions of the country and producing a wide range of crops, from meat and livestock products to grains, fruits and vegetables.

Our FAC members, and other producers within Oregon, will benefit from the investment in organic by the state. Adding a state match to available reimbursements for a vigorous and costly certification process will continue to incentivize and encourage adoption of organic practices, which provide foundational benefits to the environment and provide domestic resiliency for food supply chain shocks and disruptions, as well as providing economic benefits to producers and their communities.

As noted in recently released *Organic Agriculture & Organic Product Market Analysis*, organic is "well positioned for growth" in the state of Oregon and concludes further support could be implemented. OTA hopes this acknowledgement by the report and the current discussion for a cost-share reimbursement by the legislature will encourage many more organic initiatives being considered.

In summary, support for Oregon farmers practicing organic agriculture will provide environmental benefits, as well as economic opportunities for farmers; creating jobs and lifting rural economies while meeting the growing consumer demand for organic products in the U.S. and global marketplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

/s

Peter J. Mihalick, Esq.  
Senior Director of Government Affairs  
Organic Trade Association