

Submitter: Kat Vecchio
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB887

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kat Vecchio and I am a Business Development Manager at Hummingbird Wholesale. I am writing in support of SB 887 to create an Organic Policy Specialist position at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

In 2022, the legislature declared organic as one of the five "emerging sectors" and appropriated funds for economic assessments of each sector. The assessment laid out several opportunities to build economic, agricultural, environmental, and community resilience through the organic sector. Oregon must continue to prioritize support for organic agriculture and there is a growing need for a policy specialist who understands the principles and practices of organic farming, production, and market creation.

This position would lead the facilitation, marketing, and trade of organic products and ensure inner- & inter-agency integration of policies supporting organic practices.

At Hummingbird Wholesale, we believe organic food is the way to support our communities and environment. To serve people and planet in a healthy and symbiotic way. Creating sustainable food systems for the future, and ensuring nutrient dense food for generations.

As trade uncertainties and extreme weather events disrupt Oregon's food and agricultural systems, organic practices offer solutions that support agricultural and economic resilience and offer new market opportunities. Having an Organic Policy Specialist at ODA offers long term support for an agricultural sector that offers many benefits to Oregon and its residents.

Investments in organic farming education, advocacy, and programmatic needs are necessary to promote growth of our agricultural industry. Please support SB 887.

Sincerely,
Kat Vecchio
Hummingbird Wholesale