

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

Presently 98.5% of Oregon's 15.3 million agricultural acres are not organic. This represents a monumental failure on an issue that myself and other Oregonians care deeply about. We need a representative within ODA to ensure progress. In the absence of SB887 it's easy to imagine another 20 or 50 years pass without any significant progress. Note: I'm aware that OR's 1.5% of acres under organic management is actually above the national average and that many states have failed on this issue as well.

It's unfortunate the bill language does not also include a funding mechanism to accelerate transition, but perhaps the position created by SB887 could prioritize the design and implementation of a program to incentivize and accelerate transition. For example this could happen effortlessly with an opt-out fee of \$1 per trash bill to finance compost application and defray the cost difference between organic inputs and chemical inputs. This kind of program could generate \$22 million per year, financing the transition of ~180,000 acres per year and would also improve water holding capacity and advance the states goals on resilient and climate smart agriculture.

If there is an opportunity to add this to the requirements and job description, that would be my additional recommendation.