

March 4, 2025

Senate Natural Resources & Wildfire Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 NE Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 887

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

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in to support SB 887. I am Chief Sponsor of this legislation because I believe this is a critical next step towards supporting and expanding our Organic industry in Oregon.

We know there is room for growth in Oregon's Organic sector. In 2022, the legislature called out Organic as an "emerging sector" and conducted a study that showed that there was room to support this industry that would help to improve Oregon's economic standing relating to organic food farming, production, processing and sales.

SB 887 is intended to build upon the work from 2022, by adding a position at the Oregon Department of Agriculture to help implement some of the pieces encouraged in the report.

We envision this Organic Policy Specialist Position at ODA in setting Oregon up for success for capturing more of the growing organic market by:

- Following national trends, policies and regulatory changes that impact the production, marketing or certification of organic agricultural products to advance the sector as well as to aid the department in state and federal advocacy.
- Marketing organic agricultural products domestically and internationally.
- Facilitating trade of organic agricultural products, including addressing organic import substitution (This is Oregon importing organic products that could be produced in state.)

- In consultation with other state agencies—like the Department of Education, which has a nexus with Farm to School programming—to address gaps in data related to organic agricultural products.
- Helping to establish and support statewide infrastructure for the post-harvest handling and processing of organic agricultural products, which also can be utilized by conventional channels.
- Integrating all relevant department programs of policies that encourage organic practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please support SB 887 to create an Organic Policy Specialist at the ODA and help grow Oregon's organic sector. I ask that you move the bill to Ways and Means for further evaluation at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Nosse", written over a thin yellow horizontal line.

Rep. Rob Nosse