

Submitter: Jim Bronec
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 Jim Bronec of Praying Mantis Farm LLC. I am a third generation Organic farmer in Canby, OR. 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 one of five “emerging sectors” in Oregon 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 to the integration of policies supporting organic practices here in Oregon.

Organic farming practices benefits the entire community in the state of Oregon. As a third generation farmer who transitioned to Organic farming 30yrs ago, I know what having supportive policies, OSU extension programs, and ODA focus on the needs of the organic sector, means to our industry. Farmers like me are working hard to conserve and improve our important resources like soil, water and the environment of all of our communities. Having a Organic Policy Specialist at ODA will go a long way to ensuring that Oregon organic farmers remain competitive with other states and that Oregon organic farmers have the support they need to continue growing this important sector of farming. I have witnessed how ODA support made Oregon grown grass seed such a successful industry through out the USA and beyond. With ODA support, I know Oregon organic produce, feed crops, Seeds, and value added products can do the same.

Oregon has a great opportunity to gain a higher percentage of the \$63 billion dollar organic industry with the support of ODA and guidance of an Organic Policy Specialist. Once again I call on you to support SB 887 and provide much needed support to Oregon organic growers.

Thank You

Jim Bronec
Praying Mantis Farm LLC

Canby, OR