

**WILLAMETTE VALLEY**  

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**VINEYARDS**

March 4, 2025

Senate Natural Resources & Wildfire Committee  
Oregon State Capitol

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. Willamette Valley Vineyards is happy to support this legislation that would add an Organic Policy Specialist Position at the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Oregon has always been a leader in Organic food & wine production and we would like to continue to see that industry thrive. We believe a modest investment to add this position at the agency will help farmers and other food & wine related businesses throughout the state.

Too often the Organic food found at the supermarket is from out of state or even out of the country. Other states are getting out ahead of Oregon, and we would like to see our Organic profile raised, so we too can maximize the economic impact to the state. There is an opportunity to improve our system to see Oregonians have more access to local organic products as well as increase Oregon's organic exports.

This position will help conventional farmers too, since this position would engage on all Organic practices, even those being practiced by non-certified farms and processors.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please support SB 887 to create an Organic Policy Specialist at the ODA and move the bill to Ways and Means for further review at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Bill Cross  
Director of Government & Community Affairs,  
Willamette Valley Vineyards