

Submitter: Sue Nackoney
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 Sue Nackoney and I am the owner and farmer at Gentle Rain Farm, a certified organic farm selling a mixture of vegetables, herbs and flowers at the Portland Farmers Market. I am writing in support of SB 887 to create an Organic Policy Specialist position at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

I have worked on organic farms in Oregon since 1995. I have farmed as Gentle Rain Farm since 2015. I came to Oregon from Maine to farm because I heard that this was a great place for organic farming community support. I would like our state to do even better by actually giving the farmers a greater level of support to uphold organic practices. Many farms would possibly transition to organic if they had more information and incentive. Oregon could become a leader in environmental protection through organic agriculture if there was a position to carry that vision forward.

Now at a time when more unpredictable weather threatens our crops and infrastructure, wildfires pose huge dangers and climate change is so obvious that all life on earth is practically begging people to do something different, I hope that you will decide that Investments in organic farming education, advocacy, and programmatic needs are one of the keys to supporting Oregon in being a livable place in the future. Please support SB 887.

Sincerely,
Sue Nackoney, Gentle Rain Farm