

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chair Golden  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for SB 887**

Chair Golden and Members of the Committee,

Organic agriculture in Oregon is thriving. However, while our organic product sales are growing, they are not keeping pace with the rapid growth of other states. SB 887 will fund an Organic Policy Specialist at ODA to create a world-class organic sector in Oregon.

In 2022, the legislature declared organic one of five "emerging sectors" in Oregon. From 2008 to 2021, organic annual sales in our state grew from \$155 million to \$386 million, with a peak of \$454 million in 2019. However, Pennsylvania's organic sector grew by nearly 400%. And Washington's grew by a similar amount. There is significant untapped potential in our state's organic sector. From potatoes to marionberries, Oregon is known for our quality agricultural products.

An Organic Policy Specialist will play a key role in advancing our organic sector by:

- Elevating the profile of organic farming within the agency, statewide, domestically and internationally.
- Leading the facilitation, marketing, and trade of organic products, locally and internationally.
- Ensuring inner- and inter-agency integration of policies supporting organic and environmental practices and support the sector benefiting from state and federal programs.
- Supporting ongoing soil health initiatives, which directly impact Oregon's climate goals.

For these reasons, I urge your support for SB 887.

Sincerely,

*Joshua Basofin*

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