



# ORGANIC FARMING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

*fostering the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming*

Organic Farming Research Foundation

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## **RE: SB 887**

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

My name is Brise Tencer, and I am the Executive Director of the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF). OFRF is a national non-profit organization that works to foster the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming systems. I am writing in support of SB 887 to create an Organic Policy Specialist position at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

Oregon is ideally situated to be a leader in the rapidly growing organic industry, which [surpassed \\$69 billion in 2024](#). However, to fully realize this opportunity, Oregon must make both public and private investments in support of organic agriculture.

In 2022, the legislature declared organic one of five “[emerging sectors](#)” in Oregon and appropriated funds for economic assessments of each sector. The assessment identified several opportunities to build economic, agricultural, environmental, and community resilience through the organic sector. However, organic producers often find themselves on the frontline, innovating through trial and error to advance sustainability within strict regulatory confines, with limited federal and state support.

An Organic Policy Specialist at ODA would be a critical asset in supporting Oregon’s organic sector. This position would lead the facilitation, marketing, and trade of organic products and ensure inner- & inter-agency integration of policies supporting organic practices. As the organic industry grows, it is essential that Oregon continues to prioritize support for organic farming to ensure its long-term success.

At OFRF, we recognize the value of organic farming to both farmers and communities. [Organic production results in healthier soil, cleaner water, more biodiversity, and healthier communities](#). Our work with farmers, researchers, and policymakers across the nation, including in Oregon, underscores the importance of policies that support organic practices.

According to the [Organic Trade Association \(OTA\)](#), Oregon is home to over 750 organic businesses, and over 90% of households in the state buy organic foods. Despite this, there remains a significant need for targeted investments in organic



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farming education, advocacy, and programmatic support. OTA has also reported that over 30% of Oregon's organic farms plan to increase production over the next five years, signaling a demand for continued growth and investment in this sector.

OFRRF, as a national, nonpartisan organization, works to support policies that advance organic agriculture and its many benefits. We believe that the creation of an Organic Policy Specialist at ODA will foster the growth and resilience of Oregon's organic industry and contribute to building a stronger, more sustainable agricultural future for the state.

**We urge you to support SB 887 and ensure that Oregon continues to be a leader in the organic sector.**

Sincerely,

Brise Tencer  
Executive Director  
Organic Farming Research Foundation