



NORTHWEST CENTER FOR
ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

To: The Senate Committee on Education,

Attention: Chair Senator Michael Dembrow, Vice-Chair Senator Chuck Thomsen and
Members of the Committee

On behalf of the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), I am writing in support of SB 404-2 that, if passed, will increase support for organic and transitioning farmers, improve access to organic food and make way for greater economic growth in Oregon.

NCAP is dedicated to protecting human and environmental health from the detrimental harms of pesticide use. As such, we advocate for the passage of SB 404-2 so that we can further support farmers attain healthy pesticide-free livelihoods while also expanding access to healthy foods for mothers, infants and children; some of our most vulnerable citizens when it comes to pesticide exposure.

With roughly two-thirds of all pesticide use occurring in agriculture, helping growers devise alternative tools and strategies for pest management in food production is a priority area for NCAP. Part of what we do involves workshops, conferences and field days designed to help farmers access real, practical techniques and learn directly from one another about what works. We have learned that farmers learn from one another and the additional funding for positions to support organic at the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon State University will help to foster these needs and provide opportunities for further advancement of the organic sector in Oregon.

Additionally, the legislative directive to the Oregon Business Development Department to conduct a comprehensive economic analysis of Oregon's organic sector will help us to better understand the potential of organic agriculture within our state. With a steady national increase in the organic food sector over the years and increasing proof that sustainable farming methods have a positive impact on our environment; Oregon must follow the trend and support growers attain profitable businesses with state-wide support for building healthy soils.

Access to healthy, pesticide-free food should not be limited due to economic status. Healthy, chemical-free food is especially important for infants and children. Due to their size, physiology and behavior, children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental hazards, including pesticides in food. Children are more heavily exposed to chemicals in proportion to their body weight, and have more years of life ahead of them in which they may suffer long-term effects from early exposure. This bill takes the

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important step of ensuring that low income Oregonians have access to organic foods through the Women, Infants, and Children public assistance program.

Thank you Senate Committee on Education for your consideration on the passage of SB 404-2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Navarro". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dominica Navarro
Healthy People and Communities Program Manager
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides