



Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 7, 2022

Chair Golden and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery:

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network to express our support for and request your support for SB 1532, which would expand the Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems by hiring five agricultural extension positions focused on organic practices that will assist Oregon farmers and ranchers, and also will fund an economic assessment of Oregon's organic sector.

Healthy soils practices are aligned with organic practices and provide a variety of benefits that are important to farmers and ranchers. In addition to increasing productivity, water retention and pest and disease prevention, healthy soil practices can also sequester carbon in the soil and can reduce farmers' energy use and reduce fertilizer-related greenhouse gas emissions. They also help farmers and ranchers stay resilient in the face of changing and unpredictable climate conditions. For example, organic methods have led to soil with increased water holding capacity—a benefit that is critical during drought.

Technical Assistance in organic practices is sorely needed to help farmers employ methods that allow them to diversify their operations or try new ways to build resilience. The Oregon Global Warming Commission's recent *Natural and Working Lands Proposal* also noted that additional technical assistance for Oregon farmers and ranchers is needed, something this bill directly addresses.

Please support and advance SB 1532.  
Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Megan Kemple". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Megan Kemple, Director of Policy Advocacy, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network