



February 26, 2023

## RE: SB 610; Food for all Oregonians Program

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, Members of the Committee:

Organically Grown Company, known as OGC, began 45 years ago as a non-profit grower’s cooperative, selling fresh, organic produce and specialty crops to help small to mid-size farms expand their market access and to get healthy food to the people.

By 1980 OGC had created an agricultural marketing cooperative, purchased a cooler, and built its first loading dock in Eugene, Oregon. Along the way, OGC became an S-class corporation in 1999, and in 2008 an employee stock ownership program (ESOP) took effect. Then in 2018, OGC became proudly owned by the first-of-its-kind Sustainable Food and Agriculture Perpetual Purpose Trust. This Trust ownership model allows the company to remain independent and true to its mission to promote and inspire the growth of the organic agriculture movement.

Today, as a Trust-owned organization, OGC operates out of seven facilities in the Pacific Northwest, employs over 250 produce professionals and in 2022, distributed over 125 million pounds of fresh organic produce to eaters.

In addition, in 2022, OGC proudly awarded \$250,000 to over 70 mission-aligned organizations through its OGC Mission Fund, many of whom we partner with on food insecurity and hunger. And to further ensure we are doing our part to address food access, in 2022 we donated nearly 640,000 pounds of organic fruits and vegetables to local food banks and gleaners.

Many non-profits and private businesses such as our own are committed to ensuring every individual in our state (and beyond) has access to healthy food. We’re making in-kind as well as financial contributions and we’d like to see the same level of commitment from our state leaders. As such, we ask that you acknowledge the existing barriers to food access for our immigrant and refugee communities and commit to passing SB 610. No one should experience hunger, especially because of where they were born.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Dill  
Manager of Policy and Advocacy

### PASS SB 610

**\*Make food assistance available to all Oregonians in need, regardless of immigration status.**

**\*Provide families with money for groceries, matching federal SNAP food assistance.**

**\*When we all have access to food, we’re all better off.**

