



March 2, 2012

OREI Review Panel
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
USDA STOP 2240
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250-2240

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Lynn Coody
Organic Agsystems Consulting

Kimberlee Chambers
Willamette University

Suzy Evans
Foundhorn Gardens

Annie Hoy
Ashland Food Co-op

Connie Karr
Oregon Tilth

Callyn Kircher
Oregon Tilth

Kim Leval
*Northwest Center for Alternatives
to Pesticides*

David Lively
Organically Grown Company

Stacy Kraker
Organically Grown Company

Roxanne Magnuson
LifeSource Natural Foods

Susan Schechter
Provender Alliance

Dear OREI Review Panel,

RE: Integrating research and practice in systems management of organic vegetable farms

The Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) is a 501 (c) (6) non-profit trade organization with the mission to advance the organic industry and community in Oregon. The OOC Leadership Council, members and supporters bring together representatives of Oregon-based constituencies, both from the organic trade and from other stakeholders active in the organic industry.

OOC supports this project and such investments in research that serve to strengthen knowledge and solutions that address the critical needs of Oregon farmers and that help them remain competitive in the marketplace. One of our early successes involved supporting efforts to expand organic research at Oregon State University. We worked with Alexandra Stone, Nick Andrews to identify, with farmers, priority research needs for organic farmers. There are currently approximately \$7 million worth of grants, which fund organic research & education at OSU. Prior to 2004, and the creation of the OOC, there were no grants related to organic at OSU.

Organic farmers need research that offers soil and pest management solutions that are specific to organic systems. Many federal programs require farmers to have a whole farm plan. With this research project farmers will have more information and educational resources about whole-farm management of soil and pests on organic vegetable farms, what makes organic vegetable farms successful, and what are key components of whole-farm integrated soil and pest management practices.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Leval".

Kim Leval, Chair
Oregon Organic Coalition and,
Executive Director-
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