



COALITION FOR ORGANIC AND  
REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

February \_\_, 2024

To Members of the Washington State Legislature,

The Coalition for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture (CORA) is writing to ask you to support the economic development of our agricultural sector by supporting funding for the Organic Inspection Credit **and the Governor's Capital Budget proviso for Agricultural Carbon Storage and Sequestration.**

1. **Organic Inspection Credit (WSDA \$864,000 operating)**

The Washington State Organic Inspection Credit will particularly offset the required annual inspection cost for certified organic farms and handling or processing businesses, helping increase participation in the organic program and create market opportunities for Washington businesses. If passed, SB 6278 authorizes the WSDA to establish the credit.

2. **Agricultural Carbon Storage and Sequestration (WSDA \$5M, Governor Proposed Capital Budget Sec. 3030) would appropriate dollars from the Natural Climate Solutions Account**

Farmers bear the brunt of a changing climate, but with new management practices, they can improve resilience and continue to thrive. These grants for small farms will improve carbon storage and sequestration on agricultural lands by funding the adoption of soil health management practices and funding research for new tools to support small farms investing in their soils.

**Why organic and regenerative agriculture?** It can play a major role in the health and economic vitality of Washington. Supporting organic and regenerative agriculture helps both our businesses and our communities thrive.

- If organic agriculture were a single commodity, it would rank fifth for dollar value in Washington State
- Washington leads the nation in organic production of apples, pears, cherries, and blueberries, and we supply 30 percent of the nation's organic fruit sales.

- Organic cultivation brings more dollars to the community, once a farmer navigates the upfront costs of transition. The collective value of organic acres in cultivation is more than double their relative share of total crop land in the state.
- Global organic sales have been growing by 10-20% over the last 15 years

Source: [WSU 2022 Current Status of Organic Agriculture in Washington State](#)

Sincerely,



Name: Melissa Spear

Title: Executive Director  
Tilth Alliance

Co-Chair  
CORA Governing Council

### **CORA Governing Council Members**

Aimee Simpson  
Ali Lee, Health and Equity Specialist  
Anne Schwartz, Blue Heron Farm  
Brenda Vanderloop, 21 Acres  
Donnie Wilcox, Wilcox Farms  
Jill Smith, Pure Eire Dairy & Creamery  
Mary Purdy, The Culinary Institute of America  
Matt Steinman, Foothills Farm  
Melissa Spear, Tilth Alliance  
Mike Dill, Organically Grown Company  
Rhonda Faison, Rojo Juice  
Rebecca Robinson, PCC Markets