Dear Dr. Ngouajio,

I am writing this letter in support of Oregon State University proposal "Development of Online Graduate Certificate In Organic Agriculture" to be submitted for funding to the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) program. Oregon State University is proposing the development and implementation of online graduate certificate in Organic Agriculture.

We are very excited about the prospects of this program. I am the Produce Merchandiser and Local Buyer for New Seasons Market. New Seasons Market is a chain of seventeen grocery stores in the Portland area. Our stores are full service neighborhood stores, with a focus on local and organic.

There is a need for an online certificate to train highly qualified personnel knowledgeable on Organic Agriculture. As the market for organic products continues to grow, the agricultural sector will need to respond with increased production. The program will also allow professionals and post-baccalaureates including organic growers to enroll and increase their knowledge. This will be critical in responding to market forces.

Sincerely

Chris Harris
Produce Merchandiser/Local Buyer
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