Oregon Blueberry COMMISSION

P.O. Box 3366,
Salem, Oregon 97302-0366
Phone (503) 364-2944
Fax (503) 581-6819
oregonblueberry.com

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Dr. Mathieu Ngouajio
National Program Leader
Institute of Food Production and Sustainability
National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA
STOP 2240; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-2240
Telephone: (202) 401-4895, mngouajio@nifa.usda.gov

Dear Dr. Ngouajio,

I would like to offer this Supporting letter for the Oregon State University OREI proposal "Development of Online Graduate Certificate in Organic Agriculture," which was developed by Valtcho Jeliazkov and a team of recognized scientists in several scientific disciplines.

The Oregon Blueberry Commission is please to see the development of this much needed educational tool not only for students, but also for professionals and organic growers. The project team is addressing the need of the organic community in the region and in the nation for well educated people to serve the growers and this expanding industry.

As indicated in the project summary, "the sales of organic food and non-food products in the US reached $39.1 billion in 2014, an increase of 11.3 percent relative to 2013". Oregon State University is committed to excellence in teaching and is known for its online programs that reach out to diverse and underrepresented groups and audiences. The proposed online graduate certificate will be the first in the nation and will be an excellent support tool for the expanding organic food production and consumption.

Sincerely

Bryan Ostlund,
Executive Director

Paid for by the Oregon Blueberry Commission, an agency of the State of Oregon.