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Review Panel Members
Organic Research and Extension Initiative
National Institute for Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C

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Dear Professor Brito,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Organic Center, a non-profit organization founded in 2002 that supports organic research and communication. We communicate studies on sustainable agriculture and health, and collaborate with academic and governmental institutions to fill gaps in our knowledge and ensure effective outreach to stakeholders that are effected by research results.

The Organic Center is fully supportive of the OREI proposal "Development of Online Graduate Certificate in Organic Agriculture". We believe that this work will be essential for providing remote access to organic training for university students and professionals. There are currently no online master's degree programs or graduate certificates in organic agriculture, and very few online undergraduate programs in organic agriculture exist, so this online graduate certificate could greatly expand the ability for individuals to learn about organic management.

The research proposed for this project is crucial for increasing access to trainings outside of areas that currently have organic education and training programs, and could overcome challenges associated with a lack of farmers converting to organic.

Please give this planning proposal your highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shade