



With the creation of the Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) in 2002, Congress recognized that there must be research dedicated to the unique needs of organic agriculture. OREI exists to ensure optimal conservation and environmental outcomes and to examine new and improved methods and practices suited for organic agriculture, including seed varieties. Research is essential for the economic success of organic producers, improving the competitiveness of domestic production against imports and improving opportunities for exports of American organic products.

## **STRENGTHENING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH (SOAR) ACT | H.R. 2720**

OTA supports the bipartisan Strengthening Organic Agriculture Research (SOAR) Act:

- Reauthorizes and increases OREI funding incrementally, from \$60 million in 2024 to \$100 million in 2028.
  - Additional funds available through annual appropriations.
- Makes competitive grants available for research specifically focused on transition to organic
  - Removes barriers, documents effects, and develops improved methods for transition.
- Increases funding for organic data collection efforts to \$2 million per year through 2028.
  - Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an economic impact analysis of organic agriculture to show the character of organic farms and their impact on local economies, the environment, social dynamics, and more.

## **> COSPONSORS**

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ★ Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]     | Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]            |
| ★ Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]* | Rep. Salinas, Andrea [D-OR-6]          |
| ★ Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-19]*  | Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]              |
| Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24] | Rep. Perez, Marie Gluesenkamp [D-WA-3] |
| Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]      | Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]            |
| Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]    |  |
| Rep. Lawler, Michael [R-NY-17]    |  |
| Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]         |  |
| Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]   |  |

★ = original sponsors

## **ORGANIC SCIENCE AND RESEARCH INVESTMENT (OSRI) ACT | S.2317**

Additionally, OTA supports the Organic Science and Research Investment (OSRI) Act:

- Requires improved coordination between USDA research agencies and organic research and extension.
- Requires a feasibility study on transitioning more land to organic.
- Authorizes a grant program to support producers in transitioning to organic.
- Provides a stair-step increase of OREI funding to \$100M by 2028.

## **> COSPONSORS**

- ★ Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]
- ★ Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]
- ★ Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]
- ★ Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]
- ★ Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]
- ★ Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]
- ★ Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]
- Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]
- Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]
- Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]
- Sen. Butler, Laphonza R. [D-CA]

★ = original sponsors

## **THE RURAL PROSPERITY AND FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2024:**

Enhances coordination on organic research in USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area, including the creation of a coordinator role at USDA.

**For more information, contact:**

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