



January 16, 2020

The Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee  
411A J.A. Cherberg Bldg.  
P.O. Box 40466,  
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

*Re: Soil Health Initiative –S 5092.1*

Dear Members of the Committee:

PCC Community Markets, a locally-owned community food market, enthusiastically supports the Soil Health Initiative.

As the nation's largest co-op grocery retailer with 13 stores and more than \$288 million in revenue, PCC Community Markets has dedicated our triple bottom line business to providing local, organic and sustainable food to Washington state residents. Our shoppers care about the environment and how their food is grown, raised, and harvested. Our shoppers also care about what can be done to reduce the harmful impacts of our food system based on the best-available science and ensure that the food that is being produced is as environmentally conscious and nutritious as possible.

Because climate change is front of mind for both consumers and producers in Washington, efforts must be made on multiple fronts to move our food production system forward and reduce its negative climate impacts. This requires not only supporting research and best practices concerning the health of the soil and agriculture's ecosystem impacts, but also concerning the nutritious value of the food produced.

The goals of the Soil Health Initiative take a science-based and producer-supportive approach to addressing these consumer and producer concerns. More importantly, the Soil Health Initiative framework will move Washington forward in developing state-based research and best practices, which will become increasingly necessary under the unique-to-each-region pressures climate change will continue to impose.

PCC supports this collaborative and science-based approach to improving science and support for our food production system. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Submitted respectfully,

Aimee Simpson  
Director of Advocacy & Product Sustainability