

Submitter: Ramona Tamiyasu

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Wildfire:

My name is Ramona Tamiyasu, owner and operator along with my husband, Tom Garofalo, of Tamiyasu Orchards, in Hood River Oregon. We grow cherries, apples and pears. When we experienced the Eagle Creek Wildfire in 2017, we were all impacted. We struggled to get the fruit harvested, as well as any other mandatory tasks needed to be done due to smoke. Although this was human caused, there are several other wildfires that have not been, and there will be more, certainly in the future due to what changes the climate is going through. The lack of precipitation has impacted our aquifer reserves and also snow pack/glaciers on Mt. Hood, which supplies our irrigation water. Out of the ordinary colder Spring weather affects our bloom times and also our bees, who only fly when it is above 50 degrees and not raining. All this affects pollination, which in turn affects fruit production. We have noticed our fruit production being affected strongly over the last ten years, and it appears to get more extreme with high and low temps, precipitation, etc.

Although we did not receive disaster grants for all of those years, I hope that moving forward that they will be available for us and others as the weather is becoming more unpredictable and we will probably need to apply for some assistance.

Please support HB 2979 to renew funding for this valuable program.

Thank you!

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