

Submitter: Emily Cooper

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 Emily Cooper, and I'm the owner/operator of Full Cellar Farm in Boring. We grow vegetables on our 14.5 acre property and sell them directly to customers through a CSA (community supported agriculture) program, as well as wholesale to schools.

Over the past several years, we've increasingly been dealing with the effects of climate change in our operation. Some examples of this include poor seed germination in the summer due to excessive heat in our greenhouse, power outages affecting our ability to irrigate and run our walk-in coolers, and extreme heat and wildfire smoke that makes it dangerous for us to work outdoors.

That's why we were so grateful to receive a Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience grant in 2024. We used the money to purchase shade cloth for our greenhouse and a generator to run our irrigation well. We were also able to upgrade our irrigation pump so it's more energy efficient, and purchase two tractor implements that help us more effectively cover crop our farm for the winter, to protect the soil from wind and water erosion.

We could not have tackled all of these projects in one year without the help of this grant. Because of the low profit margins of our profession, many small-scale farmers struggle to cover operating costs, never mind make capital investments like these. We really appreciated the forward-thinking nature of this grant, which allowed for costs related to both immediate and longer range climate-related impacts.

I ask that you please support HB 2979 to renew funding for this valuable program.

Thank you for your time.

Emily Cooper  
Full Cellar Farm  
Boring, OR