

Submitter: jayden becker

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

My name is Jayden Becker and I am a organic farmer from Portland Oregon. I am writing today to support HB 2979 and tell you how crucial it is that we continue our investment in the local food system by supporting small farms and ranches and the outlets that they depend on, especially farmers markets and food hubs. These community institutions not only bring economic opportunity into rural Oregon, they connect urban and rural areas through agricultural marketplaces, provide access to local food, and tap into nutrition assistance programs that spread these fresh Oregon grown fruits, vegetables, and meats to people who might not otherwise be able to get them. We need to make sure that these vital small businesses can withstand the natural disasters, worsening storms, and unpredictable weather that has been increasing in recent years.

This personally impacts me because I am an organic farmer, spending time outside. With the last 15+ years being pretty continuous hazardous air every summer it is crucial that this is passed!

As a new farmer, this will be my second season experiencing the hazardous air. I grew up in southern oregon, and my town burned down (Talent) in 2020. I experienced first hand the absolute disaster of the air....from being safe inside. I can only fathom what it must have been for all the farmers that summer. I watched first hand small farmers lose the ability to farm, due to the smoke, their farms burning, or the lack of clean air for the vegetables and soil.

It is time for Oregon to renew its commitment to our small farms and local food system. They keep our communities fed and insulated from the fluctuations of the centralized food supply chain. They are a vital part of our collective wellbeing, environmental stewardship, and the future of food. Please support HB 2979.

Thank you,

Jayden Becker
Portland OR
they/them