

Submitter: Lindsay Goldberg

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 Lindsay Goldberg and I am a Farmer from Portland. 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.

In 2021, we experienced a heat dome which caused many plants to bolt and grow abnormally quickly, and as a result we had an excess of product very quickly. Many farmer's markets were closed to protect customers and vendors, but as a result, farmers were unable to sell their goods and were left scrambling. In addition to this extreme event, lessor heat waves impact our farm and farmers markets yearly and have become very costly.

If I had access to a \$10-\$30k grant, I would purchase shade cloth to help crops survive heat events. I would also build a shade structure for the health of our employees. I would hire a soil consultant to make recommendations and implement practices that will make my crops as resilient as possible during extreme weather events.

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,
Lindsay Goldberg
Fawn Lily Farm

Portland, OR