

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

My name is Jess Land, and I am a Farmers Market Manager from Oregon City. I am writing to strongly support **HB 2979**, and urge continued investment in Oregon's **farmers markets**, which serve as critical infrastructure for local economies, small farms, and food access programs.

**Farmers markets are experiencing extreme weather.** Heat waves, wildfires, droughts, and storms disrupt operations and threaten vendors. We need this funding to respond to these challenges and ensure markets remain open, accessible, and sustainable.

The **Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund** and **SNAP support grants** have been lifelines, helping markets upgrade infrastructure, implement cooling and smoke mitigation strategies, and expand SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks programs. But demand **far exceeds available funding**—grant requests would have required more than double the resources OFMA must distribute. Without renewed investment, farmers markets will struggle to continue serving their communities.

These programs impact me personally because our market has suffered closures due to wildfires, smoke, excessive heat and snow. This affects our farmers' revenue and causes disruption to our SNAP clientele's ability to access fresh, locally grown food. As a result of chaotic weather, we've lost valuable infrastructure that keeps our market safe and accessible for all. We were so grateful to receive funding from both the FMF Growth Fund and Climate Resilience Grant. Our market was able to replace some of the damaged equipment to increase safety. We still need help to succeed! Our ability to accept SNAP and DUFB increases the solvency of our local economy and protects community residents. By offering these vital benefits, people of all changes can procure fresh food and decrease risks of food insecurity. Without this, our market and farmers would suffer so tremendously, we would be at risk of total closure. Our patrons who rely on us for fresh food access would experience irreparable consequences due to lack of funding.

OFMA and FMF can leverage state funds to **match federal funding**, strengthening our farmers markets and local food systems. We cannot afford to fall behind. **Please support HB 2979 to keep our markets strong, our farmers supported, and our communities fed.**

**Thank you,**

Jessica Land

Oregon City Farmers Market – P.O. Box 2931 Oregon City, OR 97045

