

Submitter: stacey givens
On Behalf Of: Side Yard Farm
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 Stacey Givens and I am the owner of Side Yard Farm in Ne Portland. We are an urban farm that is growing on 1 acre and provide 70 families with CSA shares, several local restaurants with produce and we have a food donation program that serves 3 large non-profit organizations in the Portland area that helps marginalized communities in need. We are proud to be serving our community for the last 16 years.

Climate change has caused several issues for us over the years and it's only getting worse. I am on city water and during those intense heat waves, my water bill is extremely high and hard to pay. My farmers are not able to work a full day during those heatwaves and I am unable to pay them for that 'time off'. A lot of the crops we grow have been affected by heat waves and extreme frozen temps, heavy rains, etc, which results in a huge loss for us at times.

We received a Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience grant for several projects on the farm. We built a new compost area (large worm farm!), mulched the entire 1 acre farm with cedar chips and purchased the following: soil moisture tester, broadfork, cover crop/soil amendments and frost fabric. We were also able to offer our space for free to host 14 grief groups at the farm. This funding has been so valuable because soil health is so important when it comes to climate resilience. Having healthy soil helps the following: removes CO2 from the atmosphere, reduces greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and crops are more resistant to weather extremes. Having healthy soil also filters and purifies water and reduces flooding.

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

Thank you,
Stacey Givens
Side Yard Farm -Owner
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