

Submitter: Sasha Jacobo

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 Sasha Jacobo, and I am a Farmers Market Manager from Forest Grove. 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 has to distribute. Without renewed investment, farmers markets will struggle to continue serving their communities.

These programs impact me personally because:

? We had several closures due to intense heat waves

? 20% of the customers at our markets utilize their SNAP benefits and participate in the Double Up Food Bucks program.

? The OFMA Climate Resilience Grant has given both our markets the ability to pivot if needed and support our vendors when the symptoms of climate change affect the ability to access our markets.

? The FMF Growth Fund Grant has allowed us to prove bilingual signage to ensure everyone in our community is able to learn and access our food access programs, especially DUFB. It has also provided us with funds to host different local chefs who utilize local produce to educate our marketgoers with food demonstrations. This Grant has also subsidized the cost for our markets to be able to renew our ability to accept SNAP/DUFB at our markets.

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,

Sasha Jacobo

Adelante Farmers Markets

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