

Submitter: Ann Kopel

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

To the committee,

My name is Ann Kopel and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland, Oregon. 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.

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 my husband and I buy groceries from People's Co-op and the weekly Farmers Market they support. We shop there because we trust the Co-op and local farmers to supply us with organic food that we can trust. Please pass 2979. We humbly thank you! Warmly, Ann Kopel