

Submitter: Daniela Steiner

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 Water,

My name is Daniela, and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland. 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 I regularly shop at the market, I sometimes work at the market, and the farmers and other shoppers are my community.

SNAP/DUFB is so beneficial to the whole system- it allows the farmers provide high quality food to everyone who needs it.

Climate change, extreme weather events, and fires will continue to be issues for us. We need ways to protect everyone's health and safety, which includes all the people and the land. Communities growing food and feeding each other is how we stay resilient going forward.

The people growing the food are taking care of everyone who eats, so we need to take care of the farmers.

OFMA and Farmers Market Fund 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,
Daniela Steiner

PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET

Portland, OR