

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

My name is Jen Bishop and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Southeast 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:

- SNAP/DUFB makes fresh produce economically accessible to more people and improves health and well-being for everyone involved.
- Farmers market are community-based economic and social hubs that connect community members. As climate changes disrupts more aspects of our lives, farmers markets can and should offer enduring, mutually-supportive places to gather.
- The freedom and self-determination that drives local farmers is quintessentially American, and when local farms are thriving, everyone benefits.

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,
Jen Bishop
PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET
7738 SE Ellis St
Portland OR 97206