

Submitter: Shana Seligman

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 Shana Seligman and I am a resident of Corvallis Oregon. As a recent graduate from OSU's College of Agriculture, I understand how important farmers markets are for a local agricultural economy and community. They serve as community hubs, support farms, and provide affordable food for those in need through their 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 friends and loved ones rely on SNAP to get fresh produce, and a significant percent of the community members who come every Saturday and make the market such a vibrant community center are there because they can rely on the SNAP double up program. Without them, the Corvallis Farmers Market would be less vibrant and attract fewer people of more means to buy from the local farmers. This program is a win-win for everybody and should be safeguarded.

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.

Sincerely,  
Shana Seligman  
Corvallis, OR