

Submitter: Rosalind Lewis

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,

I am a member of People's Co-op and a regular attendee of both the People's Farmers' Market and the Shemanski Park market. I am writing to voice strong support for HB 2979. Farmers' markets are an essential part of Oregon's economy and an essential part of my own life. I really enjoy buying food directly from my friends who own small farms because I support their excellent labor practices and environmental stewardship, and I love shopping at farmers markets to keep my money local.

Friends who work at these markets tell me that the Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund and SNAP support grants have been essential, helping markets upgrade infrastructure, implement cooling and smoke mitigation strategies, and expand SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks programs. Several of my friends and neighbors have relied on the Double Up Food Bucks program in particular. It is wonderful that we have a program that increases access to fresh, healthy, locally grown, nutritious food for the people who need it most.

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,
Rosalind Lewis
People's Farmers Market/Shemanski Park Market
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