

Submitter: John Brennan

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

My name is John Brennan, 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:

When my SNAP benefits are limited, I know I can get local, fresh produce.

I go to the PSU and People's Coop farmer's markets when I can. The doubled value lets me focus on healthy food, even when it's a higher price.

I've long been a fan of buying local. Supporting local farms and farmers is easiest and has a lot of direct impact.

Please support HB 2979 to keep our markets strong, our farmers supported, and our communities fed.

Thank you,

John Brennan

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