

Submitter: Richard Jenkins
On Behalf Of: People's Market and Farmer's markets
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 Richard Jenkins, 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 shop at People's Farmer's Market and have supported it for years. This farmer's market provides produce and many other locally sourced foods and other goods. The prices are very competitive. Often, there are foods available there that the larger markets do not carry. Smaller farmers often sell through this and other farmer's markets. They provide an essential link in the local food chain and we all depend on these local farmer to keep us well fed.

Thank you,

Richard Jenkins MD
PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET
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