

Submitter: Mary Scott

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 Mary Scott and I'm a 45 year member of People's Food Coop. I'm proud that the Wednesday Farmers Market has been providing fresh produce year round with grants to support SNAP which make healthy basic foods accessible to our community and allows small hyper-local farmers steady access to loyal buyers. Everyone wins with this partnership. I've seen the Farmers Market grow in size, quality of produce and upgraded facilities over the decades.

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.

Please support HB 2979 to allow these markets to grow stronger in link with supporting local farmers.

Thank you,
Mary Scott, ND, LAc
People's Farmers' Market supporter
216 NE 24th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232