

Submitter: Erica Templeton

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

I'm a People's Farmers' Market community member in Portland, and a frequent shopper at the Beaverton Farmers' Market. 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 Climate Resilient Farmers Markets Grant program 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 serve their communities.

It's important to me to buy directly from local growers, cutting down on transportation emissions, saving produce from the landfill, and keeping money in our communities.

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,  
[YOUR NAME]  
PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET  
[ADDRESS]