

Submitter: Jamie Dominguez

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 Jamie Dominguez and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland OR. 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 supporting our local food systems is vital to our quality of life, health, local economy, and the thriving of our community. When I was on the SNAP program, I was still able to get high quality and local produce to feed my family because of programs like the SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks at People's Farmers' Market and other farmers' markets. I was also able to keep that money in my local economy, benefitting more than just myself. While I am no longer on the SNAP program, I still feel that other people and families deserve that same access to healthy local food that I had and HB 2979 can help keep these programs funded.

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,
Jamie Dominguez
Portland OR