

Submitter: Ken Yoshikawa

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

My name is Ken Yoshikawa, and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland, OR. I am writing to profoundly 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 am a working artist and actor, and the SNAP and farmers market programs enable me to feed myself healthy and enriching foods from local farmers. The markets connect me to community, which bolsters the strength of my city. I am directly sustained by these programs, and have been for years, while I provide my city with cultural value like theatre, stories, poetry and more.

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 for your time and consideration,

Ken Yoshikawa

PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET

3029 SE 21st Ave, Portland, OR 97202