

Submitter: RACHEL CRANE

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

My name is Rachel, and I am a community member of the People's Farmers' Market in SE Portland. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2979 and urge continued investment in Oregon's farmers markets, which play a vital role in supporting local economies, small farms, and food access programs.

The Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund and SNAP support grants have been essential in helping markets upgrade infrastructure, implement cooling and smoke mitigation strategies, and expand SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks programs. However, the demand for these grants far exceeds available funding—requests have been more than double the resources OFMA can provide. Without renewed investment, farmers markets will struggle to continue serving their communities effectively.

These programs have personally impacted me by allowing my community and me to gather at local farms and farmers markets, providing access to fresh, healthy, local produce. I also believe that investing in local farms and farmers markets is crucial for strengthening food security, particularly in the face of extreme weather events.

OFMA and the Farmers Market Fund can maximize state funding by leveraging federal resources, further strengthening our farmers markets and local food systems. We cannot afford to fall behind. Please support HB 2979 to ensure our markets remain strong, our farmers receive the support they need, and our communities continue to have access to fresh, local food.

Thank you for your consideration.