

Submitter: Hannah Swan

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

Good morning Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

My name is Hannah F. Swan, and I am writing you today to ask for your support for farmers markets, local farmers, and the community members whose health depends on equitable access to the fresh, nutritious food that our farmers grow and our local farmers markets provide.

As a former child who grew up in poverty, I know firsthand the difference that the healthy food can make in the life of a growing child. After studying nutrition and working for the local WIC program, I understand now how the wholesome vegetables and fruits that I had available to me through the farmer's markets and local co-ops helped me and all of the children I have worked with, to maximize their potential. Your actions today will affect the lives of thousands of developing children who are able to eat well and affordably with the SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks programs that are also provided by this bill.

Without these funds, farmers will also struggle to continue to serve the communities in need.

More than ever, we need to strengthen our local food systems in the interest of national security; if we rely on food from abroad, we are vulnerable to the whims of national decisions as they relate to trade. We must secure our food systems, the essence of what it is to be healthy and strong - and supporting our local farms and markets through this bill is one crucial way of doing that.

Please support our local farmers, children, and national health by using your power today to support this bill. It is in the interest of all who wish for a healthy future.

Thank you,
Hannah F. Swan
Community Health Advocate
People's Farmers' Market
Portland, Oregon