

Submitter: Laura Gordon

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

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

This bill is so important! Our farmers markets provide healthy pathways for low-income Oregonians to make their snap benefits stretch farther through the Double Up program. As someone who used SNAP in the past this was invaluable to me. My weekly farmer's market trip was a lifeline, knowing that I had access to healthy local foods was a buoy in a moment in my life when there was a lot of uncertainty. At this moment in time there is a lot of uncertainty for a lot of people. An investment in our local food production and markets is ESSENTIAL. Access to locally grown food should be of paramount importance.