

Submitter: Alison Takeo
On Behalf Of: People's Farmers Market Community Member
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 Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

My name is Alison Takeo and I am a People's Farmer's Market community member from Portland. 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, implementing 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.

I have volunteered in a farmers market over 10 years and have seen many local families benefit from the snap program. Many families have access to healthy tasty local fresh vegetables and fruit. The local economy benefits from farmers markets, farmers benefit from the farmers markets and the people benefit. I strongly value my local farmers market for the quality and value of their products and the farmers who produce the products. As a nurse working in the community for the past 40 years I know the value of healthy food and healthy environment to keep the community well. OFMA and Farmers Market Fund can leverage state funds to match federal funding, strengthening our farmers markets and local food systems. We cannot fall behind. Please support HB 2979 to keep our markets strong, our farmers supported, and our communities fed.

Thank you,
Alison Takeo
Peoples Farmers Market
6707 SW 14th Ave,
Portland, Or 97219