

Submitter: Dawnn Meiers
On Behalf Of: Portland Farmers Markets
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

My name is Dawnn Meiers and I am a community member, small business owner, Climate Health Ambassador, and healthcare professional living currently in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to strongly support HB 2979, and urge continued investment in Oregon's farmer's markets, which serve as critical infrastructure for local economies, small farms, and food access programs.

Farmers markets are experiencing extreme weather. Heat waves, wildfires, droughts, and storms disrupt operations and threaten vendors. We need this funding to respond to these challenges and ensure markets remain open, accessible, and sustainable.

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 as a parent dedicated to providing my young family with local, high quality food grown in our region, and also as a food justice advocate who both supports and vends at Portland-area farmers markets.

OFMA and FMF 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,
Dawnn Meiers, Psy.D.
Roseway Neighborhood, Rocky Butte Farmers Market supporter/vendor