

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

My name is Sarah Breeze, and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland. I am writing to enthusiastically 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, 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 because farmers markets provide critical access to fresh, local, healthy food during times of global upheaval. Reducing reliance on global food systems ensures continued access to food despite shortages and recalls.

Further, supporting local farmers markets ensures my dollars stay in my community. A strong community with thriving small farms benefits all of us.

OFMA and Farmers Market Fund 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,

Sarah Breeze

PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET

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