

Submitter: Michaela Hammer
On Behalf Of: Humming Bee Nursery
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 Resources, and Wildfire:

My name is Michaela Hammer and I'm the owner of Humming Bee Nursery. We grow certified organic plant starts on less than 1/2 acre outside Corvallis for wholesale to garden centers and retail nurseries up and down the Willamette Valley.

Running a plant nursery can be very volatile, with spring weather patterns drastically impacting sales - if it's cold and rainy in May, we'll be sitting on hundreds of flats of summer crops ready for sale, whereas if the rains stop in late April, we can't keep up with demand. Climate change has been affecting these already unpredictable trends and will continue to do so in years to come. Severe winter weather such as heavy ice and snow, which used to be somewhat rare when I was growing up here, also threatens our infrastructure, which can collapse under the weight of solid precipitation. And of course, summer heat waves make it hard for gardeners (our final end-customers) to carry out their plans and prevent them from planting fall crops at appropriate times - ie, a lot of fall crops need to be transplanted in July and August and we provide these starts, but experience decreasing demand due to high heat, drought, and wildfire smoke during those months.

Oregon's Farmer/Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants support Oregon's small and underserved producers to be more resilient to climate impacts such as heat, smoke, and drought for projects such as irrigation efficiency, soil health, shading and cooling, and evacuation trailers. These grants are a great alternative to traditional disaster relief funding – they have given farmers the resources to maintain their crops and livestock through extreme weather events, rather than being compensated after they lose them. My hope is to be one of the farmers that receives this type of support to make our growing areas more resilient to climate change, such as with better reinforcement in our greenhouses for the winter and better shading and cooling equipment during the summer.

Please support HB 2979 to renew funding for this valuable program.

Thank you,

Michaela Hammer

Humming Bee Nursery
Corvallis, OR