

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

My name is Becky O'Brien, a resident of Southeast Portland and 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.

Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund and SNAP support grants are invaluable for community-centered farm & food distribution, but demand 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. In the face of economic, supply, and political uncertainty, we need to hold strong in our support of these local farm-to-consumer systems.

I know they've been helpful in my life, and I'm sure my case is not unique.

Thank you.

Becky O'Brien