

Submitter: Kate Perle  
On Behalf Of: Small is Beautiful Farmstand  
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 Kate Perle. I am a farmer on the outskirts of Eugene, OR who grows all manner of fruits and vegetables, tree fruits, raises cattle for beef and dairy, chickens for eggs and feeds my local community. I manage 20 acres of land and know that just as diverse crops and revenue streams helps protect my business from any one natural threat, a full toolbox of strategies are needed to protect all food producers from the increasing effects of climate change. The wildfires of 2020 took a serious toll on myself and my neighbors, the "heat dome" effect that has brought us multiple years of weeks with temperatures over 100 degrees, the lowering of the water table from which we all draw require us all to evolve our strategies to be able to feed our communities. We need to be proactive, to create alternate methods of production, new varieties of plants that are more resilient, more efficient water usage, more hedgerows and canopy plantings, and finally be ready to help if the worst does happen.

I am considered a "small" producer as are most of the neighboring farms in my area. We are nimble and efficient operations because we have to be. We do not profit from the big federal subsidies and often to not qualify for any of their "innovative" farm funding opportunities. We need these grants to innovate and continue to create the best possible outcome for all our resident customers.

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.

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

Thank you,  
Kate Perle, Small is Beautiful farmstand