

Submitter: Elizabeth Rivers
On Behalf Of: The Dalles Farmers Market
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

My name is Elizabeth Rivers, and I am a small business vendor from The Dalles, OR. 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 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 because I have been able to experience community for the first time in a world where technology advancements make basic human interaction slim to none these days. Connecting with community has allowed me to care and make money to support my family- as well as expose our kids to experiencing community for themselves, and above all: serve in something that's bigger than myself. Please allow us to connect, share, and support each other through the timeless love that markets and events bring to small communities like ours.

closures due to heat/smoke,
challenges in accepting SNAP.

How important is SNAP/DUFB to your market?

need for infrastructure improvements. Helps low income families have access to local produce, and supporting their local farms & small businesses.

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,
Elizabeth Rivers
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