

Submitter: Lydia Parsley  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

My name is Lydia Parsley and I am a Salem Public Market community member. 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.

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 get most of my food from farmer's markets and also make my products out of local produce, and have seen the first hand beneficial impacts of farmer's market for decades.

SNAP/DUFB is roughly 20% of our farmers market, both vendors and patrons depend on this vital support. Keeping the Salem Public Market open year round ensures that many elderly folks and families have access to higher quality food than they normally would, AND it supports our local economy keeping money in the community.

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,  
Lydia Parsley  
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