

Submitter: Phoenix Oaks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

I support HB 2979 because we urgently need improved food resilience in Oregon. With our food supply and access under serious threat from climate change, natural disasters, diseases like bird flu, farmworker deportations, and the likely dismantling of federal food safety regulations, must act now to support local agriculture. These threats plus tariffs on imported foods have resulted and will result in higher food prices. It is vital that we pass this bill now to ensure greater food access, food affordability for those struggling to make ends meet, and support for local farmers and farmers markets. Please include funding not only to help low-income folks use SNAP benefits at farmers markets, but also increased funding for and expansion of the Fresh Change program, which allows those in need who do not or who soon will not use SNAP benefits (ie, because of federal restrictions or the gutting of the program) to shop at farmers markets as well. At this time when Oregonians cannot rely on the federal government supporting us even in emergencies, fully funding local food resilience is as essential as fully funding disaster relief. Thank you.