

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

My name is Anna Campbell, and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland. 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 am a SNAP card holder, and value my ability to eat fresh fruits and vegetables, and support a business that aligns with my ethics. As a low-income person, I am so grateful for the ability to still cook with fresh and local produce, which would not be possible without the Double Up Food Bucks program at People's Food Co-Op and Farmer's Market. My ability to feed myself and my family food that is healthy and nourishing would significantly diminish without these programs, based on the limited funds I already receive from SNAP. The Double Up Food Bucks program gives me the means to purchase produce I wouldn't be able to otherwise. And connecting with local farmers is a valuable experience I would not want to lose. This program supports low-income families, like mine, as well as small businesses, such as The People's Food Co-op, Farmer's Market, and local farmers, who all have the same mission in mind; to bring healthy and fresh food to the people of their community, that we can all ethically stand behind.

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,
Anna Campbell

1306 SE 36th Ave. Apt 11 Portland, OR 97214

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PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET

3029 SE 21st Ave, Portland, OR 97202