Submitter: Jennifer Greenwood

On Behalf Of:

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 Water:

I am writing to strongly support HB 2979 and urge continued investment in Oregon's farmers markets. My name is Jennifer Greenwood, and I am a community member from Beaverton who relies on farmers markets for access to quality local food.

Farmers markets are critical infrastructure for local economies, small farms, and food access programs. With food prices already increasing, tariffs will drive up prices and supply challenges even further. Buying more local products from farmers is more important than ever, and farmers markets are the way we access local produce, meat, and dairy.

People in our community, including farmers, are already struggling to make ends meet. Spending our food budget within our Oregon community is an effective way we can support our families, local farmers, and our state.

I'm grateful for the Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund and SNAP support grants. They've helped markets upgrade critical infrastructure, implement cooling and smoke mitigation strategies, and expand SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks programs. We need markets year-round and these funds help ensure access for everyone.

However, demand far exceeds available funding — even if OFMA had double the resources to distribute, it still wouldn't be enough to meet all the grant requests. Without renewed investment, farmers markets will struggle to continue serving their communities.

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.

Jennifer Greenwood