

Submitter: Tamara Metz

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 a People's and Montavilla 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 support a food system that is healthy, sustainable, and community-building. I do much of my food shopping at one or both of my local farmers' markets every week, often by bike or on foot. The fact that they are open regularly, and year-round, accessible to people from across the economic spectrum, and places where my neighbors – from across the city – converge for more than just shopping, all add directly to my sense of connection and ability to make very small but hopefully meaningful contributions to a good life for all.

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,

Tamara Metz

People's and Montavilla farmers markets
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