



February 3, 2025

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

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Coalition Director of the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC).

The OOC, which was incorporated in 2008, works to promote the growth of Oregon's organic industry and community. By bringing together farmers, businesses, and affiliated organizations, OOC provides leadership, advocacy, and support to expand the organic sector.

The OOC has long been a member of the Oregon Community Food Systems Network and I am writing to support HB 2979 and urge legislators to continue to invest in Oregon's food systems by supporting farms, ranches and the outlets that they depend on, especially farmers markets and food hubs. Many farmers participating in farmers markets and food hubs are certified organic or use organic practices and these are communities that are critical to Oregon's organic sector.

These community institutions not only bring economic opportunity into rural Oregon, they help bridge the rural urban divide through food, and provide access to critical nutrition assistance programs that distribute Oregon-grown fruits, vegetables, and meats to people who might not otherwise be able to get them. The organic tenets of fairness and care can encompass ensuring all of our neighbors, regardless of socioeconomic status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

The state needs to make sure that these vital businesses can withstand the natural disasters, extreme weather, and global supply chain disruptions that have increased in recent years.

I urge your support of HB 2979.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amy Wong

Oregon Organic Coalition