

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

My name is Matri, 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.

Fresh, locally grown food is hard to come by with a limited budget. That is why the Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund and SNAP support grants have been so important. 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 passionate advocate of quality, locally sourced food and farms. I grew up going to farmers markets with my mom, who milked our one Jersey cow and made butter. It's vitally important to me to keep farmers markets open—especially in these times of extreme weather and climate change.

As you know, 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,

Matri Lamb

In support of PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET

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