

Submitter: Tania Neubauer

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,

My name is Tania Neubauer, and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland. I am writing to strongly support HB 2979, and urge continued funding of Oregon's farmers markets, which are vital 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, put in place cooling and smoke mitigation strategies, and expand SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks programs. But demand far exceeds current funding—grant requests would have required more than double the resources OFMA has to give out. Without renewed funding, farmers markets will struggle to keep serving their communities.

These programs impact me because:

I choose local food to support our region in so many ways: to help our climate, preserve our open space, and strengthen our local economy, and to eat healthy food. It's great to have a farmers market at a grocery store so these two markets can support each other.

OFMA and Farmers Market Fund can use state funds to match federal funding, which strengthens our farmers markets and local food systems. We cannot afford to fall behind. Please support HB 2979 to keep our markets strong, our farmers in business, and our region fed healthy local food.

Thank you,
Tania Neubauer
Portland