

Submitter: Marsha Mayer
On Behalf Of: Oakridge Community Farmers Market
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 Wildfire,

On behalf of myself (Marsha Mayer) and my family, we are community members from Oakridge-Westfir and are 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.

Our local Farmers Market is only one of two food sources that are regularly open to our community members and passers by.

Farmers markets are experiencing extreme weather. Heat waves, wildfires, droughts, and storms that disrupt operations and threaten vendors and human safety/lives. We need this funding to respond to these challenges and ensure markets remain open, accessible, and sustainable.

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. Were SNAP/DUFB unavailable in our community - so many families/children/elders would go hungry without them.

These programs impact me personally because our town's citizens and the Farmers Markets alike are vulnerable to the extreme effects of Climate Change impacting all food sources in our towns (Oakridge and Westfir), which are at least an hour from the City of Eugene and the food sources and other resources that go with it.

OFMA and FMF 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, we count on your good judgement, sense of fairness, and concern for our

welfare,

Marsha Mayer
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Oakridge Community Farmers Market