

Submitter: Cara Pollard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

SAMPLE LETTER:

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

My name is Cara Pollard, 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.

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 impact me personally because:

They allow me to commit myself fully to a doctoral program for medicine that allows me no extra time to have a job to pay for life's expenses. With the rapidly increasing prices in the past few years, I cannot imagine being a student and not receiving the extra support for food during these school years. Plus, I DILIGENTLY use my allowance at both farmer's markets and co-ops every single week. This program is beneficial for me and local farmers.

How important is SNAP/DUFB to your market?

How important is keeping market open, in times of extreme weather and climate change?

How important is it to you to support local farms and farmers?

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,  
Cara Pollard  
Portland, OR