

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

I am a Farmers' Market shopper from Oak Grove in Clackamas County and have had the pleasure of shopping at the Milwaukie, the Oregon City and the Montavilla Farmers Markets. I 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 helped markets upgrade infrastructure, implement cooling and smoke mitigation strategies, and expand SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks programs. But it is my understanding that 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 have been able to use SNAP and DoubleUp benefits and support local Oregon farmers for fresh produce.

OFMA and Farmers Market Fund can leverage state funds to hopefully match federal funding, strengthening our farmers markets and local food systems.

Please support HB 2979 to keep our markets strong, our farmers supported, and our communities fed.

Thank you,
Gail Sanford
Portland. OR. 97267