

Submitter: George Nahill  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland. I strongly support HB 2979 to invest t in the state's farmers markets.

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.

I frequently visit local farmer's markets as a way to support local small businesses. These programs are incredibly important to sustaining this vital part of our state's economy and ensuring that all Oregonians have access to fresh, healthy, locally-grown food.

OFMA and Farmers Market Fund can leverage state funds to 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.