

Submitter: Rosalie McDougall

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,

I'm Rosalie McDougall, and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from SE 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. I also use the Woodstock Farmers Market (May - Oct) and the downtown Saturday Farmers Market.

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:

Having SNAP programs available to people who could not otherwise afford to buy fresh and local produce and foods, is huge. Look at what is happening on the federal level now, buying local is more important now than ever.

I really appreciate being able to buy local food any time of the year, and also supporting the hard working farmers who live in my area, who grow what can be sustainably grown here, in Oregon. How important is it to you to support local farms and farmers?

I know that by supporting HB 2979, 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,

Rosalie McDougall
Portland, OR

