

Submitter: Becky Mundt

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2978

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Wildfire:

My name is Becky Mundt and I am a nut and fruit tree and berry nursery owner in Eugene.

I am writing today to support HB 2979 and tell you how crucial it is that we continue our investment in the local food system by supporting small farms and ranches and the outlets that they depend on, especially farmers markets and food hubs.

These community institutions not only bring economic opportunity into rural Oregon, but they also connect urban and rural areas through agricultural marketplaces, provide access to local food, and tap into nutrition assistance programs that spread these fresh Oregon grown fruits, vegetables, and meats to people who might not otherwise be able to get them. We need to make sure that these vital small businesses can withstand the natural disasters, worsening storms, and unpredictable weather that has been increasing in recent years.

Our family relies on our local farmers markets for a large portion of our food purchases and we want to ensure our local farmers and producers are well supported during these difficult times of extreme weather events, droughts, wildfires and other pressures which make farming harder than ever.

We know many local families rely on access to these farms and the programs which supplement their purchasing power of good healthy food for their families and we believe this is a major priority for the community to ensure our children are healthy and well nourished.

In our minds, there is no more serious commitment to the future than that of the health of our young people, and in a world of ever-increasing chronic disease, childhood cancers, and a host of other health challenges, access to vital healthy nourishing food is our first line of defense.

Please do whatever it takes to continue to support our local food producers in the face of ever increasing hardships and retain the resilient local food system we all depend upon for our well being. Please support HB 2979.

Thank you.
Becky Mundt
Spencer Creek Nursery
86437 Greenbriar Drive
Eugene, OR 97402