

Submitter: Emily D

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

Thank you for your hard work and for considering HB 2979 today.

I have lived in Portland almost 2 decades and during that whole time, I have shopped weekly at the People's CoOp (year round) Farmer's Market, as well as some of Portland's other wonderful farmer's markets. I currently rely on the farmer's market for most of my food purchases. I believe strongly in supporting the local economy, supporting farmers directly whenever possible, eating fresh, local fruit and vegetables for my health, and reducing my environmental impact on the planet by eating local food whenever possible. Oregon's farmers markets embody these values and more.

It is also very important to me that farmer's markets should be accessible and available to everyone, rather than being expensive and exclusive places. I love that Portland farmer's markets are able to offer SNAP benefits to their shoppers, and it is essential that this continues.

I understand that the Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund and SNAP support grants have allowed farmer's markets to do a lot of good work, from updating their infrastructure to being able to accept SNAP and Double Up benefits. The demand for these grants exceeds the available funding, so it is essential that we renew this support. HB 2979 would leverage state funds to match federal funding, strengthening our farmers markets and local food systems.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.