

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

My name is Destiny Kottre, and I am a People's Farmers' Market community member from Portland, Oregon. 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.

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:

*Many people I know use the SNAP benefits to get fresh local groceries blocks from their home. I have also used them in the past. Our People's Farmer's Market is one of the ones that is available every week, and it is a treasure! Even during inclement weather events, people still need to eat.

*The market & co-op are a short walk from my house, so I always have access to fresh, healthy food, grown by great people!

*The farmers that have stalls at People's are amazing community members with deep relationships with so many folks in the SE Portland area.

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 for your time,
Destiny Kottre
PEOPLE'S FARMERS' MARKET
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