

Submitter: Adam Sunshine

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 Wildfire,

My name is Adam Sunshine, and I am a farm worker and aspiring farmer from Hillsboro, OR. I am writing in strong support of HB 2979 because investing in our local food system is critical to the success of small farms, ranches, farmers markets, and food hubs—the backbone of Oregon’s sustainable agriculture.

These community institutions not only create economic opportunities in rural Oregon, but they also connect urban and rural communities through direct agricultural marketplaces. They provide access to fresh, locally grown food and expand nutrition assistance programs, ensuring that Oregon-grown fruits, vegetables, and meats reach people who might not otherwise have access to them.

Programs like those in HB 2979 allow beginning farmers like me to build resilience by investing in soil health, water management, and infrastructure to withstand extreme weather. They also ensure that more nutritious, locally grown food reaches my community—especially those who rely on farmers markets and food hubs for fresh, healthy options. By strengthening small farms and food distribution networks, we can create a more sustainable, equitable, and climate-resilient food system for everyone.

It is time for Oregon to renew its commitment to small farms and local food systems. These businesses feed our communities, stabilize local economies, and protect us from the disruptions of centralized supply chains. They are a vital part of our collective well-being, environmental stewardship, and the future of food.

Please support HB 2979.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Adam Sunshine
Hillsboro, OR