

Submitter: Mayan McDermott

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 Mayan McDermott, and I am a board member for the Woodlawn Farmers Market in Northeast 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.

Our board is consistently reviewing how we can continue to operate, and help our farmers operate, even when we experience extreme weather. Heat waves, wildfires, droughts, and storms disrupt operations and threaten vendors. We need this funding to respond to these challenges and ensure markets remain open, accessible, and sustainable.

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.

Our market would not be able to continue our service in support of our neighborhood, which is historically underserved, without the SNAP/DUFB support we receive from OFMA. We are a grateful recipient of the OFMA Climate Resilience Grant and past recipients of the FMF Growth Fund Grant. These are invaluable funding sources that help us fulfill our market's mission of connecting neighbors with small, local farms, making fresh, affordable, and healthy food more accessible.

OFMA and FMF 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,
Mayan McDermott
Board Member
Woodlawn Farmers Market

NE Dekum & NE Madrona