

Submitter: Michelle Lin

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

I am a community member who works at a non-profit focused on the root causes of ending hunger. 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.

Farmers markets are experiencing 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 which serve a critical need for folks facing hunger amidst high interest rates, cuts in federal funding, and increasing housing prices. Without renewed investment, farmers markets will struggle to continue serving their communities and community members like me will struggle to have local, seasonal, high-quality produce options. Alternatives are to support large corporations who do not reinvest in local communities and have dismal labor practices.

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,  
Michelle Lin  
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