

Submitter: Terri Berling

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 Terri Berling, and I am a community member from Oakridge-Westfir. 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 food at the farmers market is a crucial lifeline to me and to others. But there is more involved than that. The farmers market is a place for community mental health. One retired gentleman I know doesn't really have a social life. He lives alone and doesn't seem to get out much. However, I routinely see him at the Oakridge-Westfir farmers market and he is clearly eager to engage with people. I see many other, usually older people, who gather to chat at the farmers market.

Please support our farmers market, thus widely helping the people living in the Oakridge-Westfir community.

Thank you,
Terri Berling
Oakridge Westfir Farmers Market
Oakridge, Oregon 97463