



Andrea Wade

Founder and Executive Director
Sisterhood Kitchen Collective
1140 SE 7th Ave, Suite 160
Portland, OR 97214
skcpdx@yahoo.com
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To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature:

Subject: Support for HB 2979 - Investment in Food Systems Resilience Programs

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

My name is Andrea Wade, and I serve as the Founder and Executive Director of the Sisterhood Kitchen Collective, a dedicated initiative aimed at enhancing the resilience of our local food systems. Our commissary kitchen supports small food businesses and local farmers, providing essential infrastructure and support that aligns seamlessly with the objectives outlined in HB 2979.

The proposed funding and support for the Oregon Community Food Systems Network's (OCFSN) and the Oregon Farmers Markets Association's (OFMA) resilience programs under HB 2979 are crucial. This legislation will safeguard our local food supply and enhance our community's capability to withstand and recover from climate-induced challenges. Such support is indispensable for small businesses like those within the Sisterhood Kitchen Collective, ensuring their sustainability amid growing environmental uncertainties.

The resilience programs proposed in HB 2979 will provide direct benefits to the members of our collective by furnishing them with access to crucial resources that mitigate the impacts of climate change on their operations. Possible uses of this funding include infrastructure enhancements like improved refrigeration systems or backup power solutions vital during extreme weather events. Moreover, our members will gain from educational initiatives and grants that promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve emergency preparedness.

The continuity of these programs is essential not only for the resilience and sustainability of Oregon's food systems but also for our collective food security and local economies. It ensures that our members, predominantly small-scale producers are better equipped to adapt and continue delivering fresh, local produce and products to our communities under increasingly challenging conditions.



Supporting HB 2979 signifies an investment in the current and future generations of food entrepreneurs in Oregon, ensuring the availability of necessary infrastructure to support those who rely on our collective resources to flourish in a dynamic climate landscape.

We stand united with other state organizations in advocating for this bill and are eager to actively participate in promoting its passage. We respectfully urge you to prioritize the funding for HB 2979 during the 2025 legislative session, recognizing its significant potential to positively impact our state's agricultural and food sectors.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We look forward to your support and to a fruitful continuation of these vital programs.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wade
Founder and Executive Director
Sisterhood Kitchen Collective