

Submitter: Sue Nackoney

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 Water:

My name is Sue Nackoney and I farm in Boring, Oregon. I am writing today to support HB 2979 and tell you how crucial it is that we continue our investment in the local food system by supporting small farms and ranches and the outlets that they depend on, especially farmers markets and food hubs. These community institutions not only bring economic opportunity into rural Oregon, they connect urban and rural areas through agricultural marketplaces, provide access to local food, and tap into nutrition assistance programs that spread these fresh Oregon grown fruits, vegetables, and meats to people who might not otherwise be able to get them. We need to make sure that these vital small businesses can withstand the natural disasters, worsening storms, and unpredictable weather that has been increasing in recent years.

This personally impacts me as a small farmer who sells at farmer's markets as my primary source of farm income. I appreciate that I can serve customers with SNAP benefits at my booth with the assistance of the farmer's market and the Farmer's Market Fund's double-up matching program.

I also applied for a disaster relief grant to help me with new insect pest problems that have arisen from our warming climate. In 2020 I had to evacuate my farm from wildfires, so I feel from personal experience farmers must be helped to withstand the increased difficulty of farming into the future.

It is time for Oregon to renew its commitment to our small farms and local food system. They keep our communities fed and insulated from the fluctuations of the centralized food supply chain. They are a vital part of our collective wellbeing, environmental stewardship, and the future of food. Please support HB 2979.

Thank you,

Sue Nackoney
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