

Submitter: Elizabeth Dix

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 Elizabeth from Beaverton and as a constituent I am writing today in SUPPORT of HB 2979 and reinforce the crucialness to continue our investment in the local food system by supporting small farms, ranches and the outlets they depend on, specifically farmers markets and food hubs. These community institutions not only provide valuable economic opportunity to our rural Oregonians, they also help connect our state in urban and rural areas through agricultural marketplaces. These marketplaces provide access to local fresh food and connections to nutritional assistance programs that help spread these fresh Oregon grown fruits, vegetables, and meats to people who may not otherwise have accessibility. We need to ensure that these vital small businesses can withstand natural disasters, worsening storms, and the unpredictable weather that has been increasing in our state in recent years and are only predicted to continue as Global Warming worsens.

So much of our current and long term health is related to the quality of the food we consume. Not only does this bill help provide a broader reach of our resources it also helps us continue building our own state's resilience to be self sufficient and ideally boosts economic impacts.

Oregon needs to renew its commitment to ourselves by supporting small farms and local food system. These resources keep our communities fed and insulated from the fluctuations of the centralized food supply chain. They are a CRITICAL part of our collective wellbeing, environmental stewardship, and the future of food. I strongly urge support of HB 2979.

Thank you for your service!

Elizabeth Dix
Beaverton, OR