

Submitter: Dawn Rostad

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 Dawn Rostad and I am an educator within the Organic Farming Certificate Program at Clackamas Community College. I am writing today to support HB 2979 and to tell you how important it is that we continue to invest in our local food system by supporting farms and ranches and the outlets that they depend on, especially farmers markets and food hubs. These food institutions support so many farmers and farm workers to do the thing that they love doing, growing food for our community. They give consumers access to fresh local food and tap into nutrition programs that help meet their needs. 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 because as a farmer I have had to work harder to get my product to my market outlets during extreme heat waves and changing rain patterns. As an educator, I have had to teach farmers about adapting to changing weather and natural disasters. The stress and the unknown are hard for farmers to adapt to. It is time for Oregon to renew its commitment to our small farms and local food systems. 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. Please support HB2979.

Thanks you,

Dawn Rostad

Clackamas Community College

Organic Farming Certificate Program

Oregon City, OR