

In regards to HB 2979 / Meeting time 2/10/2025

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Wildfire.

My name is Roanne, and I am a farmer's market Board member, community member from Florence, Oregon. I am writing to strongly support HB 2979, and urge continued investment in Oregon's farmer's markets, which serve as critical infrastructure for local economies, small farms, and food access programs.

We need this funding to help with challenges, to ensure markets remain open, accessible, and sustainable.

The Farmer's Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund and SNAP support grants have been lifelines. Without renewed investment, farmer's markets will struggle to continue serving their communities.

These programs impact me personally because living in a small town, there is very little offerings and local, healthy produce is not readily available. I have healed from a chronic health problem, and rely on local, fresh produce as part of my healing regime. I believe fresh, local produce is essential for my children, and for all of our children to grow healthy and knowledgeable, of where food comes from, the critical timing and need of healthy fruits and vegetables in our diets, and the importance of supporting our local communities—which is heavily reliant on our children, truly the future of our planet and our lives.

OFMA and FMF can leverage state funds to match federal funding, strengthening our farmers markets and local food systems. We cannot afford to fall behind. Please support HB 2979 to keep our markets strong, our farmer's supported, and our communities fed.

I am asking for my health.
For our children's health.
For the integrity and health of our planet.

Thank you,

Roanne Legg
Florence Farmer's Market
Florence, OR 97439