

02/06/2024

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My name is Ashley Rood and I am the co-director of the Dry Farming Institute and I am based in Portland. I am writing today to support HB 2979. I've been working with and listening to farmers and farm service providers throughout the state for seven years and this funding program is critical for the future of our farms and to feeding our communities. This funding program is incredibly unique both in its responsiveness to farmers needs—building trust between government and the local agricultural community—and in its holistic approach, supporting local market development. It's a model for the country.

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,

Ashley J. Rood