

Submitter: Emily Cooper
On Behalf Of: Full Cellar Farm
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Emily Cooper, and I am owner/operator of Full Cellar Farm in Boring. We grow vegetables on our 14.5 acre property and sell them directly to customers through a CSA (community supported agriculture) program, and operate a food hub. We also wholesale to schools. I am writing to express my support of HB 2979, which provides funding for Oregon's Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants as well as similar funding for Food Hubs and Farmers Markets.

Over the past several years, we've increasingly been experiencing the effects of climate change in our operation. Some examples of this include poor seed germination in the summer due to excessive heat in our greenhouse, power outages affecting our ability to irrigate and run our walk-in coolers, and extreme heat and wildfire smoke that makes it dangerous for us to work outdoors.

That's why we were so grateful to receive a Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience grant in 2024. We used the money to purchase shade cloth for our greenhouse and a generator to run our irrigation well. We were also able to upgrade our irrigation pump so it's more energy efficient, and purchased two tractor implements that help us more effectively cover crop our farm for the winter, to protect the soil from wind and water erosion.

We could not have tackled all of these projects in one year without the help of this grant. Because of the low profit margins of our profession, many small-scale farmers struggle to cover operating costs, never mind make capital investments like these. We really appreciate the forward-thinking nature of this grant, which allows for costs related to both immediate and longer range climate-related impacts. It is a strategic and responsible use of state funding.

Continuity of this funding is critical! This biennium, \$7 million dollars were requested for the Disaster Resilience grants with only \$2.5 million available. As you can see, the need far exceeds available funding.

I urge you to fund HB 2979. Thank you.