

Submitter: Mimi Casteel
On Behalf Of: Hope Well Wine
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I urge you to renew the state's investment in climate resilient agriculture by funding HB2979, the Food Systems Resilience bill. HB 2979 provides funding for Oregon's Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants as well as similar funding for Food Hubs and Farmers Markets.

The Farmer & Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants are supporting Oregon's small and underserved producers to be more resilient to fire and extreme weather events – funding things like trailers for evacuation, shade cloth, and irrigation efficiency. This funding is a great alternative to traditional disaster relief funding, as it has given farmers the resources to maintain their crops and livestock through disasters, rather than being compensated by the State after they lose them. This is a strategic and responsible use of state funding. Speaking from personal and direct experience, it is far less devastating to be prepared for disaster than to try to cover the losses afterwards. Some things cannot be overcome with relief and must be built in through programs like this.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mimi Casteel
Winegrower and Winemaker
Hope Well Wine