

Submitter: Tory Watson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006  
Testimony in Support of HB 2979 – Food Systems Resilience Bill

Dear Legislators,

I urge your support for HB 2979, the Food Systems Resilience bill. Local farmers, food hubs, and farmers markets are more than just sources of nourishment—they are lifelines of resilience, equity, and cultural survival. Programs like Growing Ancestral Roots exemplify this, connecting BIPOC communities to land, ancestral foodways, and sustainable economic opportunity.

Access to culturally relevant foods is not a luxury—it is essential. Research shows that when people have access to the foods tied to their heritage, health outcomes improve and community bonds strengthen. As global supply chains remain vulnerable, and as we witness the rise and volatility of tariffs, we cannot afford to rely solely on external imports for nutrition.

This bill is an investment in the long-term well-being and food security of Oregonians. It supports infrastructure that ensures future generations have access to not just calories—but to the kinds of nourishment that heal, connect, and sustain communities.

Please vote yes on HB 2979 and fund the local food systems that are already doing the work.

Sincerely,  
Tory Watson  
Philomath, Oregon  
Community Advocate & Parent