



**Dear Joint Committee on Ways & Means,**

My name is Andrea Wade and I am the **Founder and CEO of Sisterhood Kitchen Collective**, a food hub and shared commercial kitchen in Portland, Oregon. I am writing today to express our strong support for HB 2979 and to emphasize how critical it is to continue investing in Oregon's local food system, especially through support for food hubs like ours that serve historically underinvested communities.

Sisterhood Kitchen Collective supports over a dozen BIPOC women and gender-diverse food entrepreneurs. We provide access to commercial kitchen space, culturally responsive business support, and a network of resources that help our members grow sustainable, community-rooted businesses. Many of our members are single mothers, immigrants, and first-generation business owners—people for whom resilience is not just a buzzword, it's a daily necessity.

This personally impacts us because:

- **Demand is increasing.** We've seen a surge in interest from food businesses that need production space with equipment and infrastructure that can handle increased demand—especially when extreme weather or disaster events impact their access to farmers markets or outdoor production.
- **We're a bridge.** Our food hub connects urban and rural communities through relationships with local and BIPOC farmers, providing fresh ingredients for our member businesses and connecting culturally significant foods with Oregon consumers.
- **We need upgrades to scale.** With grant funding, we would invest in additional cold storage, commercial-grade kitchen equipment, and disaster-ready infrastructure like electrical upgrades—tools that would help our members produce more food, more efficiently, and withstand power outages or weather disruptions.

As national trade policies remain uncertain and global food supply chains grow more volatile, it is more important than ever that Oregon invests in its local food infrastructure. Programs like HB 2979 ensure that small producers, food hubs, and community-serving operations like ours can weather these changes, continue feeding our communities, and remain economically viable regardless of federal shifts in policy.

Food hubs like Sisterhood Kitchen Collective are not only economic engines, we are community anchors. We build climate resilience, food security, and economic justice all at once.



Now is the time for Oregon to reaffirm its commitment to equitable, local food systems that feed our people and protect our planet. Please fund HB 2979 and help ensure that communities like ours are not left behind in times of crisis.

Thank you for your leadership and for supporting food hubs across the state.

Sincerely,

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