

Submitter: Tracy Harding
On Behalf Of: Oregon Eaters
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I urge your support for HB 2979, which provides essential funding for Oregon's farmers, ranchers, food hubs, and farmers' markets.

Oregon's food system is under increasing pressure from wildfires and extreme weather. HB 2979 invests in climate resilience, disaster preparedness, rural economic development, and conservation—supporting small businesses and strengthening access to healthy, local food across the state. These programs also expand nutrition incentives and foster vibrant community hubs.

Food hubs play a key role in regional food distribution, providing infrastructure for marketing, sales, aggregation, and delivery of source-identified farm goods to households, groceries, restaurants, schools, and corporate food services as needed regionally. Success depends on reliable physical and logistical systems that uphold food safety and support producers and buyers alike.

HB 2979 passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Agriculture, with more than 200 written testimonies in support and a letter signed by 248 farms, food hubs, markets, and community organizations.

Continued funding is critical. Gaps in support undermine participation and prevent farmers and community partners from fully leveraging these programs.

Please fund HB 2979. Thank you for your consideration.