

Submitter: Klaus Mager
On Behalf Of: Food with Thought
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 Oregon's commitment to climate-resilient agriculture by fully funding HB 2979, the Food Systems Resilience bill. This bill provides critical support through the Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants and vital investments in Food Hubs and Farmers Markets across the state.

These funds are not just a safety net — they are an upstream investment in local food sovereignty. They allow small and historically underserved producers to act before disaster strikes: securing tools like irrigation upgrades, wildfire evacuation equipment, and shade infrastructure. This proactive approach costs less than post-disaster relief and keeps producers viable during climate shocks.

As federal support for local food programs is likely to be reduced under the forthcoming Farm Bill revisions, Oregon must step into the gap. Our state's leadership is more crucial than ever to protect the infrastructure of regional food systems that nourish both people and ecosystems.

The choice before you is not just fiscal — HB 2979 embodies the kind of responsible stewardship that honors both land and livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Klaus Mager
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