

April 22, 2025

To the Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

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

Burrito Brigade is a unique food hub in that we are mission driven to alleviate hunger, but in doing so recognize that investing in our local community through the purchase and distribution of locally raised food and providing low-cost access to a commercial kitchen are powerful tools in the fight to end hunger and build a more resilient community.

Oregon's small farms and ranches, and the outlets where they market their products, are increasingly threatened by extreme weather events and wildfires. Supporting the Food Systems Resilience Programs in HB 2979 means investing in climate resilience, disaster preparedness, conservation and stewardship, rural economic development, and thriving small businesses all over our state. These investments benefit not just farmers and local food outlets but entire communities by fostering access to healthy, local food, creating hubs for community engagement and expanding nutrition incentive programs.

In 2024, we purchased directly from 9 small farmers to supplement our produce and meat selection for our grocery store-style free food pantry. We are so grateful to have received funding from this bill, allowing us to increase our cold storage capacity to increase access to local food. We witness the frontline impacts of severe weather events on our shoppers and our farm partners, coupled with ever increasing need for our services.

With this support, we are able to continue this incredible work. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Schaack
Burrito Brigade/ Waste to Taste