

Submitter: Jane Barmore
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

I am asking for your support of HB 2979, which provides funding for Oregon's farmers, ranchers, food hubs, and farmers markets. With the threat of climate change and the increased likelihood of natural disasters in addition to the chaos that is occurring on the federal level, it is more imperative now for Oregon to build and invest in a more resilient food system and to protect those at the front lines of providing food to Oregonians. 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. HB 2979 passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Ag, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water with over 200 submissions of written testimony in support, including a letter signed by 248 farms, food hubs, farmers markets, community organizations and others. Now, I am asking for your support to create a more resilient Oregon.

Having spent all of my career in the hospitality industry, being enmeshed in the local food community, as well as owning a business in Portland, it is so important to me to support an initiative that protects and provides more equitable conditions for anyone within the food system. There are so many aspects of the food system that are less visible than others and therefore easier to forget. Everyone remembers the chefs, but what about the people that painstakingly nurtured, grew, and harvested the food? Farmers are especially vulnerable, and I want to lend my voice where it is needed.

Thank you for your time.