

Submitter: Samantha Brown
On Behalf Of: Friends of Family Farmers
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a second generation sheep rancher from Eugene, Oregon. I do not own land, but lease land for my 50 sheep in various parts of Douglas County. My animals provide fire safety zones for the land owners I lease from, provide meat to the community, and a little income for me so I can justify all the hard work I put into keeping my animals well taken care of. While I may not be a large rancher, my flock started with one ewe and now has grown to fifty over the last 7 years. I plan to continue expanding, gaining new land leases, which will provide more fire safety zones without the use of labor/fuel/heavy equipment, and feed more in the community. I ask you to support the Food Systems Resilience Programs in HB 2979 because they help small ranchers, like myself, continue what we are doing and give us opportunity to have more impact on our community through creating fire safety zones. I personally did not receive a grant this year, but will continue to apply. Because I do not own land, grants from these programs would help me provide portable shelter and handling equipment on my leased properties that do not have infrastructure already. Being able to handle the animals on site would save money and time, and would lessen the carbon footprint of hauling animals to another property so they can be properly handled. This is just one example of how HB 2979 can help farmers and ranchers.

Please fund HB 2979. Every day you depend on a farmer, repay our hard work by helping us get a leg up with programs like the Food Systems Resilience Programs.

Samantha Brown
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