

Submitter: Liza Jane McAlister  
On Behalf Of: 6 Ranch  
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 the state's investment in climate resilient agriculture by funding HB2979, the Food Systems Resilience bill. HB 2979 provides funding for Oregon's Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants as well as similar funding for Food Hubs and Farmers Markets.

Oregon's farmers and ranchers are on the front lines of climate change. The 6 Ranch, established in 1884, is a multi-generational family ranching operation in Wallowa County. I am asking for your support for this bill. HB 2979 provides the opportunity to assist landowners in taking pro-active measures on our land to prevent disasters and protects the production for our critical food systems.

The Farmer & Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants are supporting Oregon's small and underserved producers to be more resilient to fire and extreme weather events – funding things like trailers for evacuation, shade cloth, and irrigation efficiency. This funding is a great alternative to traditional disaster relief funding, as it has given farmers the resources to maintain their crops and livestock through disasters, rather than being compensated by the State after they lose them. This is a strategic and responsible use of state funding.

I urge you to fund HB 2979. Thank you.