



April 24, 2025

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Director of the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC). The OOC brings together businesses, farmers, organizations, and other stakeholders to provide direction, advocacy, and support for activities that promote and grow organic practices and the trade in Oregon and beyond.

The OOC supports HB 2979, especially as it relates to agricultural resilience and food security through funding for food hubs, farmers markets, farmers and ranchers.

As a member of Oregon Community Food System Network (OCFSN), the OOC would like to see funding renewed for OCFSN's Disaster Resilience grant making. OCFSN was able to help many small and marginalized producers during the distribution of the initial Disaster Relief Fund and this is a natural and needed extension of that work.

The OOC also supports funding for Food Hub Worker Safety and Infrastructure grants, as well as Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grants and SNAP support.

Many farmers participating in farmers markets and food hubs are organic or use organic practices. Local and community food systems are good for rural economies, and a larger portion of dollars spent at farmers markets and food hubs stay in their communities of origin.

Many thanks for your work on this exciting and critical package.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amy Wong
Oregon Organic Coalition