

Submitter:	Annette Pershern
On Behalf Of:	River Bend Farm
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 House Bill 2979, the Food Systems Resilience bill. House Bill 2979 provides funding for Oregon's Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants as well as similar funding for Food Hubs and Farmers Markets.

My husband and I have lived in the Willamette Valley for most of our lives (between 65-75 years respectively). As farmers we have noticed significant changes in the weather and how it has affected our orchards. We sell at Farmers' markets and at our farm. It's increasingly hard to adjust on a yearly basis to changes. We ask that you help us in our needs to provide for our community and our children for the future.

The Farmer & Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants are supporting Oregon's small and under served 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 House Bill 2979. Thank you. Annette and Dick