

Submitter: [REDACTED]

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a [REDACTED]. I am writing to strongly support HB 2979, and urge continued investment in Oregon's farmers markets, which serve as critical infrastructure for local economies, small farms, and food access programs.

The Farmers Market Climate Resilience Grant Fund and SNAP support grants have been lifelines, helping markets upgrade infrastructure, implement cooling and smoke mitigation strategies, and expand SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks programs. But demand far exceeds available funding—grant requests would have required more than double the resources OFMA has to distribute. Without renewed investment, farmers markets will struggle to continue serving their communities.

These programs impact me personally because I am a single parent/mom, and I use this program for my family. I am also a first generation Cambodian woman that works full-time as a Para II for the Beaverton School District, while also working part-time as an Oregon Home Care Worker for Aging and People with Disabilities. This program helps families in our communities and Aging and People with Disabilities receive access to an equitable food system (organic/sustainable food sources) that supports our local farmers and local co-ops.

[Scale 1-10]

How important is SNAP/DUFB to your market? 10

How important is keeping market open, in times of extreme weather and climate change? 10

How important is it to you to support local farms and farmers? 10

OFMA and Farmers Market Fund can leverage state funds to match federal funding, strengthening our farmers markets and local food systems. We cannot afford to fall behind. Please support HB 2979 to keep our markets strong, our farmers supported, and our communities fed.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]