

Submitter: Nancy Berge
On Behalf Of: The Arc Lane County
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

Subject: Support for Continued Funding for Local Farms and Farmers Markets

Dear Oregon House Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill being discussed this Wednesday that will secure continued funding for local farms and farmers markets in 2026-2027. As an agency, The Arc Lane County, that supports the Oakridge community, I've seen firsthand how vital farmers markets are to both our local economy and the health and well-being of our residents.

Supporting small farms and farmers markets is not just about ensuring food security; it's about building resilient, self-sustaining communities, social enrichment, and community. The Oakridge Farmers Market has played a critical role in this, and the funding provided by this bill has enabled us to grow and serve our community in ways that extend far beyond just selling food.

This is how I personally have accessed the Farmers Market in collaboration with my agency The Arc Lane County:

- Supplying a venue for Vaccine efforts and Recovery
- Supplying a venue to support community and families to provide a mobile Sensory Zone
- Farmers Market Collaborating with the IDD community to bring food and social networking to the community

These initiatives, among others, are directly supported by continued funding for our farmers market, and they contribute to creating a vibrant and thriving community hub. Not only do these efforts support local farmers, but they also help us adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and disrupted supply chains.

I strongly urge you to support this bill to ensure that local farms and farmers markets continue to thrive. They are essential to the health, sustainability, and resilience of our communities. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your ongoing support of small farms and markets in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Nancy Berge

The Arc Lane County
Oakridge Community Supporter