

Submitter: Elke Schoen
On Behalf Of: Oregon Farmers Market Association
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

I am Elke Schoen, a People's Farmers' Market member from Portland. I urge you to support HB 2979 in order for recipients of SNAP to continue to have access to healthy local produce; to support small farms as they cope with ever greater heat and smoke challenges; and to support local economies, of which farmers markets are a part. It is especially important to me that families are able to feed their children healthy foods that we are told one should eat but which are beyond the budget of many in my community. On market day, I am pleased to see a vibrant community in my neighborhood as they shop and learn. The health of our people and land requires sufficient funding for these programs. The bill would fund climate resilience grants, disaster resilience grants, worker safety and expand the SNAP food bucks programs, for which the demand is far greater than resources now. Thank you for considering and supporting HB 2979.

Elke Schoen
People's Farmers' Market
@ People's Food Co-op
3029 SE 21st Avenue
Portland