

To Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water  
RE: HB2979

Dear Oregon Lawmakers and Members of the Committee:

My name is Peter Salant. I'm a cattle rancher just south of Jacksonville, in Southern Oregon's Jackson County. I own and run a cow/calf and stocker operation, raising beef to sell locally here at Farmer's Markets, school districts and restaurants.

Oregon's small farms and ranches, and the outlets where we market our products, are increasingly threatened by extreme weather events and wildfires. Supporting the Food Systems Resilience Programs in HB 2979 means investing in climate resilience, disaster preparedness, conservation and stewardship, rural economic development, and thriving small businesses all over our state. These investments benefit not just farmers and local food outlets but entire communities by fostering access to healthy, local food, creating hubs for community engagement and expanding nutrition incentive programs.

Our local Rogue Valley Growers and Crafters Market has benefitted from a previous Growth Grant provided by OFMA, for which we thank you for funding! It is very much appreciated by our organization, whose Board I also sit on. As you know, Farmers' Markets play a crucial role within our local economies, providing a platform for small-scale vendors like myself to sell our products while fostering community connections. But, when wildfires, storms, or extreme heat disrupt market operations, producers suffer--unable to get our products to market, or worse, when fellow farmer's perishable produce is ruined.

"This funding represents a collaborative effort to help our state's small and midsize, highly diversified and local market farmers adapt to the ongoing effects of the climate crisis. We are so proud to be a part of this coalition of forward thinking food system advocates, farmers, and policy makers who made this happen. Oregon is so lucky to still have a thriving small scale farming community. Our farmers are on the front lines of climate change and this funding helps those who need it most," said Alice Morrison, Co-Executive Director of Friends of Family Farmers.

Oregon's small farms, farmers' markets, and food hubs strengthen our communities and deserve your continued support in the face of increasing wildfires and extreme weather events. We urge you to prioritize funding for HB 2979 in the 2025 legislative session to ensure the continuation of these critical programs.

Thank you to all the Committee Members for making this a priority for all the citizens of Oregon.

Sincerely,

**Peter**

Peter Salant

Owner

Salant Family Ranch

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