

Submitter: Jeremy Pledger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Jeremy Pledger, and I'm writing to you from Eugene.

I'm reaching out to express my strong support for HB 2979, which would allocate essential funding to Oregon's farmers, ranchers, food hubs, and farmers markets.

Our state's small farms and local food networks are facing growing risks from wildfires and other extreme weather events. HB 2979 addresses these challenges head-on by supporting Food Systems Resilience Programs that strengthen climate resilience, promote conservation, boost rural economies, and support small business development. These efforts do more than just help producers—they build stronger, healthier communities through increased access to local food, expanded nutrition programs, and spaces that bring people together.

This bill received unanimous approval from the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water, backed by more than 200 pieces of testimony—including a letter of support signed by 248 farms, food hubs, farmers markets, and community organizations across the state.

As an MBA candidate at UO focused on sustainable business practices, I regularly engage with real-world stories of how climate change is impacting agriculture. Oregon's farmers are among the most directly affected—and as entrepreneurs and stewards of the land, they deserve stable, long-term support.

Sustained funding is essential. When these programs face gaps in funding from year to year, it undermines participation and makes it harder for farmers and partner organizations to plan ahead and fully benefit from the opportunities available.

I urge you to fund HB 2979 and help build a more resilient and equitable food system for Oregon.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Pledger