

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

HB 2979 provides funding for Oregon's Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants as well as similar funding for Food Hubs and Farmers Markets.

The Farmer & Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants are supporting Oregon's small and underserved producers to be more resilient to fire and extreme weather events – funding things like shade cloth, trailers for evacuation, and irrigation efficiency. This funding is a great alternative to traditional disaster relief funding, as it has given farmers the resources to maintain their crops and livestock through disasters, rather than being compensated by the State after they lose them. This is a strategic and responsible use of state funding.

As a beneficiary of resilience grants -- we built portable shade structures to support rotational livestock grazing -- I can wholeheartedly recommend these investments. Our grant has allowed us to more efficiently utilize our pastures, and provide more and better beef for the local economy. The best food security is locally grown food. Whatever supports that is a net gain, especially to prepare for disaster response.