

Submitter: Lisa Shaddox  
On Behalf Of: Hollyhock Hollow  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing to express my support of HB 2979, which 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.

I am a recipient of one of the Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grants, and I can tell you that having access to resources like that is life changing for a lot of small farms, who otherwise wouldn't be able to make the necessary improvements to help their farm endure these changing climate conditions. I was able to purchase a new technology of shade cloth for my two high tunnels that functions way better than traditional black shade cloth. The temperature in my tunnels can get very high in our hot summer months, and traditional shade cloth just couldn't make much of a dent in those temperatures. But this new type of shade cloth, which is made from a woven reflective material, actually reduces the temps by quite a lot. My crops won't suffer from heat related stress, and I'm able to work in the tunnels now during the day, when before, it was way too hot.

HB 2979 passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Ag, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water with over 200 submissions of written testimony in support, including a letter signed by 248 farms, food hubs, farmers markets, community organizations and others.

Continuity of this funding is critical! This biennium, \$7 million dollars were requested for the Disaster Resilience grants with only \$2.5 million available. As you can see, the need far exceeds available funding.

I urge you to fund HB 2979. Thank you.