



February 16, 2019

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kris Soebroto. I am the Program Director of Village Gardens based in Portland. I am writing to request your support for **SB 727**.

**SB 727** supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm share programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

This program is important to me because of my work with Village Market, a nonprofit grocery store in New Columbia, Oregon's largest affordable housing neighborhood. Village Market serves 400 people a day and meets the basic needs of this community by providing affordable, healthy and locally grown food choices. We have been testing various discount and incentive models to support access to fresh and local fruits and vegetables for all of our SNAP eligible customers. In 2018, our market provided \$40,000 in matching incentives for fresh fruits and vegetables. We see this demand for fresh produce continue to grow and know that it truly makes a difference when SNAP benefits are matched and food dollars are stretched.

As the demographics of Portland change, communities of color and low-income residents continue to be impacted. In North Portland, many long-time African American residents along with newly arrived refugee and immigrant families face displacement and impossible choices between housing, food and other basic needs. It is crucial that we begin to create communities where all people have a way to choose healthy fresh food for themselves and their families.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kris Soebroto", is written over a horizontal line.

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