

February 18, 2019

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Elliott. I am a resident of Portland and I am writing to request your support for SB 727.

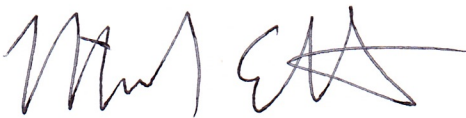
SB 727 would expand Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO), a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating markets, farm share programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown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

Only 11% of Oregonians consume enough fruits and vegetables for a healthy life. As a Board Member of Farmers Market Fund, I am committed to increasing access to Oregon grown produce for food insecure Oregonians. Our 3-year pilot program (2015-2018) successfully raised \$1.5 million to run DUFBO at 60+ farmers markets throughout the state.

Members of the community have told me how important DUFBO is to them and their families. Parents have told me that with the DUFBO token program, their children enjoy helping select their fruits and vegetables. In addition to increasing access to locally-grown healthy food in the moment, I believe this certainly helps develop good long-term eating habits.

A \$3 million DUFBO investment will further help increase consumption of fresh food for approximately 150,000 low income Oregonians, while putting money in the pockets of family farmers and aiding under-served communities - truly a win-win.

Please support this bill which will provide stability for and allow expansion of a successful program that has proven to provide support for low-income Oregonians. Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Elliott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Elliott
Portland