



Growing a healthy world since 1980

February 18th, 2019

Dear Portland Area CSA Coalition,

I am the Farm Office and CSA Manager at Winter Green Farm in Noti, OR, and I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 and HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's CSA farms because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful for our own farm.

I have been the CSA Manager for the farm for 15 years now. We have an on Financial Asst. Fund with which we can help those in need have access to healthy food. Some folks still needed additional financing and would inquire about whether we could accept SNAP to help cover the cost of the share. For many years I called SNAP and tried to find a way to make that happen and finally, in 2013, I was able to make a breakthrough. We were able to accept SNAP for our low income members and that ability made all the difference in their lives and health.

By 2016, many CSA farms were accepting SNAP for payment. When the grant for the DUFBO subsidy came about that year, that added assistance enabled even more low income families to be able to access the vegetable programs and visit Farmers' Markets. I heard over and over how grateful the families were, and how the programs have changed their lives, their health, and their overall outlook on life.

Here are some of the things that our community had to say about how this program has benefited their lives:

"I just want to say that we so greatly appreciate the help we received with funding last year. It was a godsend. The generous donation we received allowed us to afford the full, regular share and we went on to get the additional fall share. It helped us eat healthy and right, a goal we've been striving to achieve for a while. Additionally, we were able to avoid our individual food intolerances/allergies because we knew we were only consuming the best, most nutritious whole foods! Thank you!"

Sarah Sams, Portland, OR ~ CSA Member 2017

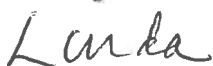
"For us it has been a long road to getting back on our feet, when we moved back to the Eugene area, we were living in a motel 6 with three kids one being a new born and several dogs. Not having a job, and thus not having a house to live in it was difficult. However having the access to real ORGANIC food has made it worth all the hardship. I only feel bad for those that do not have access to real food, and do not have the privilege that I have been able to share with my family of eating a fresh strawberry, or a tomato that actually ripened from the vine. I hope to some day be able to provide for others, the same way other have help provide for me. Keep up the good work, inch by inch row by row, you are making a difference."
Daniel Schewlakow, Eugene, OR ~ CSA Member 2017

"For the past 2 years, it's only been the generous donations of others that have allowed us to participate in the CSA program. With our disabilities and low income we could not afford it otherwise. My wife and I have severe chemical sensitivities. This means the nutrient dense and healthful fruit and vegetables at our local supermarket are coated with a poisonous pesticide we are especially susceptible to. In addition, my wife's auto immune disease is robbing her body of moisture. She needs fresh, juicy food to help her with the daily struggle of her illness. The food from Winter Green Farm has proved to be a magical ingredient in our lives. Fresh, organic, nutrient dense, and dripping with life and moisture. The months we have access to our CSA food we feel better than any other time if the year. Thank you so much for fundraisers that help people like us get what we need, at a price we can afford. Please give my thanks to all who help as well."
Tom Chism, Reedsport, OR ~ CSA Member 2017

I just wanted to say that getting the financial assistance and being able to get fresh veggies from the farm every other week is such a blessing! We love staying more in tune with the season by getting what is abundantly thriving when it is and our 5-year old loves coming to get the veggies with me and picking which box we will take each time. We have been telling him how fresh the veggies are and how lucky we are to be able to get them like this and we feel so much gratitude to have such a beautiful opportunity to get veggies as fresh as they come, aside from taking them right off the plant that is. Thank you so much to everyone who donates and makes this program possible, what a gift fresh, nourishing food is!
Katie, Eugene, OR ~ CSA Member 2016

We have received much more feedback from folks that have been helped by this program and could provide it if needed. I do hope you will share this letter with the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.

Linda Davies, Farm Office and CSA Manager



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