

Esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee;

My name is Lyn Jacobs. I am a CSA farmer, Beaverton Farmers Market vendor in Hillsboro as well as a family physician at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center. I am writing to request your support for **SB727**.

One in six Oregonians is food insecure ¹. These families can't afford all the food they need, and don't always know where their next meal will come from. More than 600,000 Oregonians depend on SNAP to put food on their tables each month; more than one third of those SNAP recipients are children. SNAP works to feed hungry people, and it works even better when paired with incentives that allow low-income families to bring home more fruits and vegetables.

SB727 will support 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. State appropriations have successfully funded similar statewide SNAP incentive programs in **CA, MA, MI, MN, & NM**.

Passage of **SB 727** will:

- Allow 250,000 low-income Oregon families will be able to expand their buying power and consume more fruits and vegetables
- Connect family farmers with new customers, giving them a financial boost
- Encourage our local economies will grow: every SNAP dollar spent at farmers market can generate \$1.79 in local economic activity ²
- Enable all farmers markets in Oregon to accept SNAP, by providing technical assistance: currently 25% of Oregon's farmers markets are not currently accepting SNAP
- Enable all farmers markets in Oregon to offer SNAP matching programs: currently they exist at only 60 of Oregon's 120 farmers markets. This leaves many rural markets without any SNAP matching program.
- Leverage future federal, other public and private matching dollars to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program.

I work with some of the most vulnerable residents in our county and I have seen how access to fresh vegetables and fruit, grown locally improves people's health. I have participated in the veggie prescription program in conjunction with Adelante Mujeres and seen the huge effects on the families as they eat more fresh produce and learn to incorporate this into their daily diet. It has to do with access to fresh food and **SB727** will improve access.

As a small family farm, we grow vegetables and have been able to offer these vegetables to community members through SNAP and Double up food bucks, again improving access.

I ask you to support **SB 727**, and support Oregon's families, farmers, and local economies. Please contact me with any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Lyn Jacobs, M.D.

La Finquita del Buho, CSA

¹oregonhunger.org/hunger-still-high-oregon/

²From the Food Research & Action Center, <http://www.frac.org/research/resource-library/positive-effect-snap-benefits-participants-communities>