



February, 15, 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am the Market Manager at the Umpqua Valley Farmers Market in Roseburg, and I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets 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 at our own market.

This program is important to our market, our customers and our vendors because it increases access to fresh fruits and vegetables for under privileged folks in our community who don't have easy access to fresh, local, highly nutritious fruits and vegetables. This outing to the market is uplifting to their spirit, increases their health and wellness, lessens illness, increases their social interactions as they spread the word and invite others who can benefit, and helps them be involved in their community.

In 2018, we had an 11.6% increase in SNAP users, and a 68% decrease in funding for Double Up Food Bucks, which is 2,370 less meals in our community. In 2017, we redeemed \$10,182 in Double Up Food Bucks. We are working hard to seek out donations for our Double Up program, but are running into road blocks, as we are not set up as a non-profit. SB 727/HB 2837 would allow us the security and funding to meet the life giving needs of the least fortunate in our community. Our customers and vendors count on this program to help supplement their food dollars and income. I have had customers, in tears of gratitude, express how much healthier their families can eat with that extra \$40-\$50 for produce per month. In an uncertain economical climate, these families rely on this program for peace of mind. Our farmers use those extra funds to buy seeds and hoop houses to grow our food, to pay part-time or fulltime employees, or to fix a piece of broken machinery. These funds are crucial to the circle of farm to table.

Here are some of the things that our farmers market community had to say about how this program has benefitted their lives and livelihoods:

Anna Tamboer/SNAP customer

My home and life were burned to the ground and I had no insurance nor did I have my gardens and greenhouses which kept me alive, fed, and healthy. I am currently at the Samaritan Inn, a homeless shelter for women, in Roseburg. My EBT food money is a gift I treasure and thank the lord for, but it does NOT go very far when my options are as limited as they are. Having the Farmers Market ¼ mile from where I have been staying at, has been a life saver.....And the bonus blessing of a few extra dollars matching my food allowance HAS SAVED MY LIFE!! I'm humbled by the generosity, the blessing, the HOPE that comes with these few extra dollars that genuinely keep me alive. For this act of giving, of generosity, of hope for a healthier community, I thank you. (full letter is attached)

Glen Lehne/Farmers Perspective of Doubleup Food Bucks/Lehne Farms

Here are my general impressions/observations of the Doubleup Food Bucks:

- *Farmers Market are one of that last few places where all segments of society come together. In our polarized, segmented, "stove-piped" communities, it is refreshing to see folks rubbing shoulders with others they routinely would not.*
- *Farmers markets are known as "small business" incubators". These markets are microcosms of enterprise demonstrating the basic principles of the free-market system.*
- *Efforts instituted and funded either, or in combination of both private and public governmental, that stimulate farmers market success invigorates the whole community.*
- *Doubleup Food Bucks is one of those efforts that needs continued support.*
- *When this program had funds available for distribution, I witnessed the following:*
 - o *More families with younger children came to the market and took advantage of these funds. Everyone tries to make their "food dollars" stretch to its maximum extent possible. Having additional funds to use influences these families to utilize them for farmers market foods that, while more expensive monetarily, are more valuable nutritionally.*
 - o *There was more diversity in customers attending farmers markets. Word of mouth is a powerful advertisement. Quite often, there were individuals who came to the market because an acquaintance of theirs was benefitting from the Doubleup Food Bucks program. When funds dried up the portion of young families with kids attending farmers market significantly dropped.*
 - o *Eating healthier is a common goal to address that overall health of our national population. Healthier lifestyle choices alleviate stressors on our nation. Fewer are sick, more able-bodied individuals provide greater productivity and innovation. The list of benefits is immense with regards to a healthier general*

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 - o Eating healthier is a common goal to address that overall health of our national population. Healthier lifestyle choices alleviate stressors on our nation. Fewer are sick, more able-bodied individuals provide greater productivity and innovation. The list of benefits is immense with regards to a healthier general population. However, these choices don’t come easy. Habits, good and bad, are formed with consistent action. Additionally, habits are formed at a young age. The Doubleup Food Bucks is a prime tool to develop opportunities for these healthy habits to formulate and mature.

Glen Lehne, Farmer
Lehne Farms, Roseburg, Oregon

2/11/2019

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank you for your time and for this program.

I have been an advocate and supporter for Farmers Markets throughout Douglas County since 2010. I have also fallen into circumstances since 2010 that has forced me to rely upon the EBT Oregon Trail program simply to survive... My home and life were burned to the ground and

I had no insurance nor did I have my gardens & greenhouses which kept me alive, fed & healthy.

I am allergic to modern medicine and I use plants, herbs, vegetables, fruits, berries & other pigonic natural gifts from the Earth to sustain my body. I also have medical issues that ONLY can be treated by a diet coming straight from this earth...

It is a challenge to find foods I need in a city without a place to grow my own.

I also am a resident of the Samaritan Inn, a homeless shelter for women in Roseburg.

I am blessed to have a safe & warm facility that provides three meals a day... however, I am unable to eat many of the meals due to a highly unusual allergy to meats, processed foods, iodized salt and too many other things that this facility provides.

My EBT food money is a gift & treasure and thank the Lord for, but it does NOT go very far when my options are as limited as they are. Having the Farmer's Market a 1/4 mile from where I'm blessed to be staying at, has been a life saver... And the bonus blessing of a few extra dollars matching my food allowance HAS SAVED MY LIFE!!

Honey - raw, local & unfiltered is my ONLY antibiotic... Organic teas & the locally grown vast variety of garden vegetables, etc has kept my strength and health up to a level where I can function & survive until I can get my feet on the ground again.

I am also a cancer survivor and Daddy now a cancer sufferer because I cannot use modern medicine.

I also went through kidney failure last year and I am fragile & sensitive + vulnerable to infections.

Making my food money stretch as far as it can ~~has~~ become a full time job... especially under the extreme circumstances I'm currently experiencing.

Going to the Market of Roseburg and the blessing of extra EBT coins has truly been a light at the end of a long dark tunnel for me.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I realize too many people in this world are ungrateful + abuse the system + take the EBT program for granted, but I do not. I'm humbled by the generosity ~ the blessing ~ the HOPE that comes with these few extra dollars that genuinely keep me alive.

In a world full of greed + "entitlement" + fraud + disrespect + blatant selfish lazy ungratefulness... this act of giving - of generosity ~ of hope for a healthier community - I thank you.

I thank you for taking the time to care about me ♡ You don't know me +

you may not ever know who I am
on this planet, but what these funds
& your gifts through these funds have
done for me; truly have made a vital
and profound impact on my life...


thus allowing me to bless others with
my ministry as a servant to the Creator
of the Heavens & the Earth & of you and
I... You saved me with a simple act
of kindness, thus saving the world and
keeping my spirit alive so that I may
one day give back 1,000 fold. I cannot

thank you enough. I also want to say;
I love you all so much - I have no
family & few friends but being able to
go to the Farmers Market & having a
few extra dollars to spend brings me
joy, peace, hope & happiness & health
I could not successfully manage
without it.

God Bless you, All!

Thank You - So So much for your
time & for your generosity ♡ You are loved
& prayed for ♡

Sincerely, gratefully, thankfully
& very humbly yours -

Anna Marie Tamboer 
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