

Chair Williams and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shaletta Baldwin. I am a Market Manager for the La Grande Farmers Market in Union County. I am writing to request your support for **HB 2292**.

HB 2292 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 ...

As an organization, part of our mission is to make local and healthy foods accessible to all members of our community. This absolutely includes the residents using SNAP/EBT to feed their families. With the DUFB dollar for dollar matching program, we are able to offer a place to not only purchase those healthy foods, but also keep money in the pockets of those who really need it. As a SNAP recipient myself, my family has experienced the benefits of this firsthand. In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Double Up Food Bucks Program became increasingly important. Residents of all backgrounds- college students, home-schooling parents, elder community members- came to really rely on the SNAP program to purchase foods for their home. Thanks to the Double Up Food Bucks program, we were able to help 619 families stretch their dollars during a time it was absolutely necessary for all of us.

The pandemic greatly affected the number of vendors and customers, so we worried about the decrease in profits our produce vendors might experience. To my surprise, our produce vendors matched and, in some cases, beat their 2019 sales number. With such a decrease in customer traffic, we could only attribute this to the DUFB Program. Maria from M & J Gardens tells us this " Double Up Food Bucks helps bring in more people from our community that use EBT. They are able to get twice as much produce for their money. It encourages them to buy local, supporting local businesses like ours."

To summarize, Double Up Food Bucks is a program with a positive ripple effect that reaches an entire community of shoppers, sellers, and their families.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.