

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cindee Lolik. I am the General Manager of First Alternative Cooperative and a grocery partner in the Double Up Food Bucks program. I am writing to request your support for the passage of SB 2292. This bill supports the administration of the Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on fresh produce at participating farmers markets, farm share programs, and grocery stores across the state, shopper will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

I want to highly endorse this program. Our stores have been participated for only a short time but our SNAP customers are thrilled to be able to buy more fresh produce especially locally grown. This is particularly crucial during the pandemic when eating well is a good way to keep being healthy. This program not only provides those SNAP clients with fresh food it also assists our local farmers with more of a market for their goods which is a boon to our rural communities. We have seen our produce sales increase as more and more of our customers are aware of this program and have heard many compliments and words of gratitude from those customers as well.

Please vote to support this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration of continuing this valuable program.