

Submitter: Harrison Schadel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Harrison Schadel. I am a farmer in Portland. I am writing to request your support for HB 2728.

HB 2728 supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP matching program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm stands, CSA programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

This program is important to me because I am a direct beneficiary, both as a food stamp recipient, and as a farmer that sells SNAP and Double-Up-Food-Bucks (henceforth DUFB) eligible products.

As a food stamp recipient, DUFB doubles my money, and makes fresh and healthy food, grown by local farmers at my farmers markets a possibility. Without the DUFB double up contribution, it would be more difficult for me to obtain fresh and healthy food that is grown locally to me, and I would have to settle for less healthy (but cheaper) options. As a consumer, this program improves my health, livelihood, and quality of life.

As a small scale farmer, I want my food to be accessible to people regardless of their income. We make approximately 20% of our money from SNAP/DUFB, so this program is indispensable to our operations and bottom line. As a small local farm, this is money that is kept within our community, rather than flowing out of state (or out of the country) to megafarms and corporations who will not invest in our local community.

Needs have never been higher in our communities, so I urge you to maintain and expand these life saving programs.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service,

-Harrison Schadel (owner One Up Farm) Portland OR