

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alisa Ocean. I am a farmers market manager in Cave Junction. 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.

The Double Up Food Bucks program is so important to me because our community has a significant number of food insecure people, and this is the best way I can see to increase fresh healthy local produce in the diets of the low income families in our region. In 2021, approximately \$9,000 of SNAP currency was spent at our market. In 2022 SNAP sales increased to over \$17,000. I believe this trend will continue and it is even more important now to expand the Double Up Food Bucks program. Countless customers express their gratitude for this program and how it is a game changer in their access to healthy local foods. This program also is extremely helpful for the small farmers in our community, increasing their sales and their ability to continue farming. Keeping foods local, and supporting these farmers has a far reaching impact. The farmers in turn spend their money locally and help our rural economic development. Local farms also lessen the impact from fossil fuels shipping food to far away locations, which is healthier for the planet.

Thank you for your consideration and support in HB2728.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Alisa Ocean, O'Brien Oregon