

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Heather Miller. I am a Farmers Market Manager in McMinnville. 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 it allows access to fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts for all members of our community. The program is very successful at our market and we see families coming back each week to shop and support our local farmers. We get great joy in seeing children choose their favorite bin of strawberries or pick the perfect peach to enjoy. Not only are these items delicious but we know that they are also packed with vitamins and minerals. The financial impact to our farmers is also worth noting. Agriculture is a challenging industry and we are proud to be able to facilitate a program that puts more dollars in their pockets and allows them to keep growing food locally.

We have witnessed an exponential growth in use of this program since the COVID pandemic. We reported to our City Council at the conclusion of last season's market that in two years we have quadrupled use of Double Up Food Bucks since 2019.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Heather Miller
McMinnville Downtown Farmers Market
McMinnville, OR