

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

My name is Heather Morrill. I am a farmers market staff member 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.

As a recent SNAP recipient due to a period of underemployment as a result of COVID-19, I was able to purchase enough food to feed myself well because I could double my food budget at the farmers market. Choice is important to me as a matter of dignity. I did not grow up shopping at the farmers markets. My family relied on reduced price school lunch and occasionally free food box programs. Today, I choose to eat locally grown fruits and vegetables and understand the economic impacts of purchasing them directly from local farmers. The farmers market is a place I feel connected to my community and know I am supporting my local economy. Double Up Food Bucks made and continues to make this possible.

At Montavilla Farmers Market I work to bring more people to the farmers market. I share the joy and resilience of our local food system, educate community members on how to use their SNAP benefits at the market and develop unique programming informed by community needs. Double Up Food Bucks is a program community members often think is “too good to be true”. The amount of Double Up Food Bucks distributed at Montavilla Farmers Market nearly quadrupled from 2020 to 2022. As our community continues to struggle with food insecurity, Double Up Food Bucks is successfully providing community members the opportunity to put more nutritious food on their tables and support Oregon growers.

Please support the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon via HB 2728.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service,
Heather Morrill
Portland, Ore.