

Submitter: Kyra Ramsay
On Behalf Of: Aloha Community Farmers Market
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kyra Ramsay and I am a farmers market manager in Aloha. 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 ...

Our market is located in unincorporated Washington County and has an ever growing diverse population. We have many people that have faced a wide variety of hardships. And several customers that utilize the Double Up Food Bucks SNAP matching program that are delighted they get to bring home more fresh, nutritious fruits and veggies from our local farmers. Here are just a couple of the statements that I have heard from customers first hand that were using the DUFEB matching program:

“Wow! I am in college and it is so hard to get healthy, good food in my fridge. I get to have more!” - From a college student

“We get to buy berries and fruit today to go with our vegetables!” - A mother of four young children

Statements like these are why it is so important to secure the matching funds for our community, our food insecure customers benefit from this program the most.

This past year our farmers had tremendous hardships from extreme heat and wind. Also, rising inflation and COVID have impacted our community. The Double Up Food Bucks SNAP matching program alleviates some of the impacts to our farmers and they benefit financially to strengthen our local food system and economic vitality. Due to the 2021 state appropriation our farmers saw a 40% increase in SNAP and DUFEB sales at the market this past year.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Kyra Ramsay
Aloha, Oregon