

February 6, 2023

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

My name is Kelly Streit. I live in Tualatin and am a hobby farmer 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.

For low-income, underserved communities, access to adequate, affordable, accessible, and culturally appropriate food has becoming increasingly challenging, as rising inflation and the lasting effects of COVID squeeze tight food budgets even tighter. The OSU Policy Analysis Library, School of Public Policy estimated the food insecurity rate at 10.3% at the end of 2021, which means that about 170,000 households, or around 420,000 people were food insecure during that period. Food security is a constant that drives the nutrition and food resource management education that I deliver in my role as a Registered Dietitian in community settings, including farmers markets. I have witnessed firsthand the benefits associated with DUFb. DUFb draws SNAP shoppers (many for the first time) to farmers markets to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for their families. Local farmers share their farm stories, their preparation and storage tips, as well as their favorite recipes. Relationships are formed that draw shoppers back week after week to purchase more fruits and vegetables, including those that are “new” or unfamiliar to them. The revenue generated by DUFb supports the viability of local farmers and supports economic development in rural communities. Using the Oregon City Farmers Market as an example, a total of 965 SNAP transactions were enacted during the summer of 2022, resulting in a total of \$18,300 in DUFb redemptions that was recycled back into the local economy. A triple win!

Thank you for your support of this critical issue and your service. In Good Health!

Kelly Streit
Tualatin, OR