

Submitter: Richard Schwartz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

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

My name is Richard Schwartz. I am a business consultant in Portland, working with farmers and small packaged foods entrepreneurs, and I sit on the board of the Portland Farmers Market. 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 supports the small farmers and business owners that I work with, making their products more affordable and accessible to vulnerable populations who experience food insecurity. The businesses I work with need to charge the true price of the food they produce, unlike the corporate producers who receive government subsidies - directly or indirectly - for their products. Unfortunately this puts some of their products out of reach for our less affluent neighbors. Double Up Food Bucks is a wonderful program that helps to bridge that gap. It also supports our local economy, keeping our dollars here at home and helping to assure the viability of our small, local businesses.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Richard Schwartz
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