

Submitter: Mindy Sandford

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 Mindy Sandford. I am the Chairperson of the Veneta Downtown Farmer's Market (VDFM) Board of Directors in Veneta. I also volunteer at the Market each Saturday. I am writing on behalf of the VDFM Board of Directors 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 the VDFM because ...

VDFM is committed to providing access to local food, economic opportunity for small farmers and local artisans, and a safe public gathering place for everyone in our community.

The Double Up Food Bucks Oregon program has been a huge success for our market and for our community. The VDFM strives to include more Fern Ridge area low-income and food insecure residents. By taking part in Double Up Food Bucks Oregon we have been able to meet that goal. Additionally, it is absolutely beneficial to the Farmers that work hard to provide their bounty at the Market.

As we are all aware the last few years have been very difficult. The number of seniors and families receiving SNAP benefits has grown. Our Market consumers are so very grateful for the Double Up program and continually tell us and our Farmer's just how grateful they are. It gives them the ability to purchase nutritious local food from local farms. Some of them, friends and neighbors. It is amazing to watch these individuals and families purchase and oftentimes enjoy the fresh foods from the Market. The laughter and smiles of individuals, seniors, parents, and especially children as they enjoy the Market bounty is heartwarming!

On behalf of the VDFM, I encourage you to support HB 2728. Thank you for your time and thank you for your service.

Mindy Sandford  
Chairperson VDFM

Elmira, Oregon