

Submitter: Meaghan Stetzik

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 Meaghan Stetzik. I am a first generation farmer in the Portland Metro area. 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 I believe everyone should have access to healthy food and vegetables. Personally, the DFUB program has benefitted my business directly through sales at the farmer's market and by adding an additional CSA share to my membership. DFUB helps food insecure individuals and families afford fresh, healthy produce at the prices small farmers need to charge in order to cover their own costs to produce. Especially in the era of COVID and rapid cost inflation, the increased access to DFUB helped folks in economically uncertain circumstances continue to purchase food direct from farmers.

Thanks to DFUB I was able to offer approximately \$800 of additional produce to the market community in 2021 and a similar amount in 2022. In 2021 I was able to offer CSA shares that were offset by DFUB, helping a young family access weekly shares of fresh produce. These sales may seem small, but every dollar is integral to the operation of the farm, and it means that not only is the farm getting paid, each customer is able to walk away with high-quality nutritious food.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Meaghan Stetzik, Portland/Gresham