

Submitter: Sasha Langesfeld

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 Sasha Langesfeld. I am a farmer in Oregon City. 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 has allowed our farm to expand our customer base to low income families who might otherwise not have access to the vegetables we grow. We grow vegetables using sustainable practices and sell them at farmers markets, which are often targeted to high income communities, but with SNAP and DUFB programs we can sell our CSA subscriptions to low income families. I have personally heard how much this access means to them, to be able to have fresh fruits veggies even while living out of their car, and we as farmers are still able to make a living and sell our vegetables for what they are worth. Farmers markets that are able to offer the DUFB matching program are important in our communities because it incentivizes low income families to spend their SNAP on local, small businesses, which helps the rural economies, and also helps them make healthier choices for their families by spending their SNAP money on fruits and vegetables instead of highly processed foods in a store.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Sasha Langesfeld, Oregon City