



Pacific NW CSA Coalition
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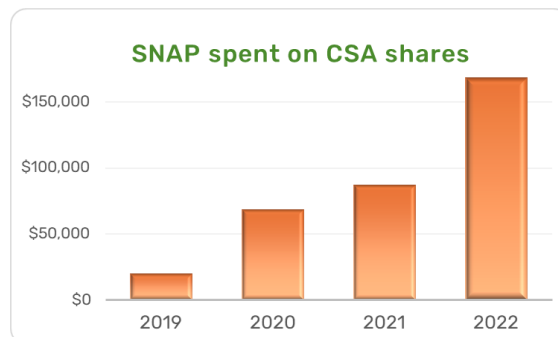
Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Holly Hutchason, and I am the Executive Director of the Pacific NW CSA Coalition. I would like to request your support for HB 2728.

My organization has been the State's subcontractor for the Double Up Food Bucks for CSA program for the last three years, and thus have direct insight into how this program benefits our farmers and our communities.

Community Supported Agriculture is a unique solution for hunger. Members pay to "join" a farm, and receive weekly shares of the harvest throughout the growing season. For households who depend on SNAP, most grocery purchases are made at the beginning of the month, when the SNAP benefits are distributed. And that food must last the entire month, forcing families to purchase shelf-stable and highly processed foods that typically have low nutritive value. With CSA, that monthly payment results in fresh vegetables every week.

Double Up Food Bucks has proven to be an effective tool for getting healthy vegetables to hungry Oregonians. In 2019, without the program, only \$20,000 of SNAP was spent statewide on CSA. In 2022, after 3 years of DUFb, a whopping \$170,000 of SNAP was spent. In only 3 years, the program grew 8-fold. It is clear that more and more consumers are turning to CSA for their fruits and vegetables.



DUFB is also a critical revenue flow for farmers. The USDA estimates that for every dollar spent at the grocery store, less than 10 cents makes it back to the farmer. The rest is spent on transportation, storage, marketing, packaging, and processing. With CSA, 100% of the food dollar goes directly to the farmer. In 2022 alone, that amounted to \$60,000 of DUFB that stayed in our local economy, supporting 40 different CSA farms. This year, 65 farms have already registered for our program, and we project that we'll need over \$110,000 in DUFB – nearly twice what we were able to distribute last year.

These increasing trends in consumer participation, farmer participation, and DUFB dollars spent clearly show how effective this program is at getting locally grown nutritious vegetables to the people who benefit from them the most. This bill is a clear win-win-win for our communities, our farmers, and our economy.

I urge you to sustain this growth by continuing to fund DUFB with HB2728.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Holly Hutchason
Portland, OR

