

Submitter: Yana Ludwig

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Yana Ludwig, and I am the Executive Director of North Coast Food Web in Astoria. I am writing to request your support for HB 2728, on behalf of our network of food producers and consumers.

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 our community because we have many people struggling here with food insecurity. SNAP only goes so far, and DUFB helps people struggling to put food on their plates to be able to prioritize fresh food in their diets. It also supports our farmers, fishers and foragers when people use these benefits through our online farmers market, building food resiliency for our whole region and supporting a strong local economy.

These past few years have been challenging. The cost of food increased by over 10% in 2022, which impacted communities already facing disparities the hardest. Many Oregonians will be losing pandemic-related food assistance after this month. Double Up Food Bucks is one important way we can support community members struggling to afford food, invest in Oregon's farmers, and support local economies.

Passing HB 2728 would mean that more Oregonians participating in SNAP would have access to fruits and vegetables. It means more grocery stores, farmers markets, and more CSAs in more corners of the state can participate.

I urge your support for HB 2728.

Yana Ludwig, Warrenton resident
North Coast Food Web