

Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Heather Morrill. I am a farmers market staff member living and working in outer Southeast Portland in District 46.

I write to you in support of **HB 2728** which 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 receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

As a recent SNAP recipient due to a period of underemployment as a result of COVID-19, I was able to purchase enough food to feed myself well because I could double my food budget at the farmers market. Choice is important to me as a matter of dignity. I did not grow up shopping at farmers markets. My family relied on reduced price school lunch and occasionally free food box programs. Today, I choose to eat locally grown fruits and vegetables and understand the economic impacts of purchasing them directly from local farmers. The farmers market is a place I feel connected to my community and know I am supporting my local economy. Double Up Food Bucks made this possible.

At Montavilla Farmers Market I work to bring more people to the farmers market. I share the joy and resilience of our local food system, educate community members on how to use their SNAP benefits at the market and develop unique programming informed by community needs. Double Up Food Bucks is a program community members often think sounds “too good to be true”. The amount of Double Up Food Bucks distributed at Montavilla Farmers Market nearly quadrupled from 2020 to 2022. As our community continues to struggle with food insecurity, Double Up Food Bucks is successfully providing community members the opportunity to put more nutritious food on their tables and support Oregon growers.

I ask you to support HB 2728, and to fully fund the bill before the Oregon Legislature adjourns.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service,
Heather Morrill
Portland