

April 14, 2023

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

My name is Liliana Perez. I am a store owner of El Torito Supermarket, located in many cities across Oregon, but am writing you on behalf of my store in Lincoln City, Oregon. Double Up Food Bucks will be launching at that store shortly, but is currently participating in Salem, Oregon. I am writing to request your support for HB 2728.

HB 2728 supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm share programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

This program is important to me because it's a very helpful program. It helps a lot of people in the community. This program helps hungry families bring home more nutritious fruit and veggies. I believe this program also helps people stay healthier. My store is proud to be part of Double Up Food Bucks'. We see our customers and get to hear how much this program helps them. For example, our customers have their limit for their SNAP card and now with this program they can have more fruits and vegetables at their table. Some customers save their coupons and spend them by the end of the month when they are out of their regular benefits, and they let us know how much they appreciate Double Up Food Bucks'.

Also Double Up Food Bucks Oregon helps our farmers make more money and our community eat fresher produce. Farmers work very hard to harvest and with the weather changing sometimes it affects them a lot by having Double Up Food Bucks Oregon will help them increase their produce sales.

**I ask you to support HB 2728, and to fully fund the bill before the Oregon Legislature adjourns.** Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Liliana Perez