

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

My name is Teri Anne Finnerty and I am a farmers market manager in Ontario. 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, up to \$20.00 per day.

This program is important to me because I believe that nutritious food contributes to good health. It provides incentives for people to buy locally raised fresh fruits and vegetables that they may feel are not within their budgets and encourages them to introduce fresh produce to their families. Both young families and seniors benefit from this program and they get the opportunity to meet the growers and learn about how produce is grown or how to prepare it.

Ontario Saturday Market began accepting SNAP in 2021 and offered the DUFEB program in 2022. SNAP sales increased in 2022 (and DUFEB almost doubled that amount) and we expect an increase in sales this upcoming year. This benefits both the families in obtaining nutritious food and the farmers in selling their produce and keeping profits local. Better health and positive economic development are pluses for Malheur County.

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.

Sincerely,

Teri Anne Finnerty
Ontario, Oregon