

Submitter: Karen Reddick Yurka  
On Behalf Of: Manzanita Farmers Market  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

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

My name is Karen Reddick Yurka. I oversee the SNAP program for the Manzanita Farmers Market in north Tillamook County. I am hopeful that you will support 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 and other venues across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

My job is to ensure that farmers market food vendors are aware of, and encouraged to participate in, the SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks program. I also greet market shoppers who use Oregon Trail benefits to ensure that they know how to maximize their benefits for fresh foods. It is the best job I've ever had.

At our market, we treat SNAP users with respect and dignity. Nothing makes them happier than to learn that the State of Oregon generously doubles their benefits, so that they can buy locally sourced and produced fish, meats, cheeses, grains and fresh fruits and vegetables - they don't have to choose between them or settle for canned goods! We are also pleased to bring new customers to our farmers and producers. Those dollars rebound in our community again as farmers spend those profits locally as well. The rebound effect is extremely important to rural communities.

We were able to almost triple our SNAP participation in 2022, after offering very limited market dates during the pandemic years. On one hand, we are proud of that statistic and will strive to increase participation again this year. On the other, it speaks to the increased need for benefits post-pandemic.

Please support HB 2728, and fully fund the bill before the Oregon Legislature adjourns. I appreciate your consideration and your service to all Oregonians.

Cheerfully,  
Karen Reddick Yurka  
Manzanita, Oregon