

Lisa Hall Executive Director

Montavilla Farmers Market PO Box 16238 Portland, OR 97216 707.499.4766 director@montavillamarket.org 4 May 2023

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

My name is Lisa Hall. I am an Executive Director of a farmers market in Portland, OR. 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.

Montavilla Farmers Market (MFM) served over 60,000 shoppers and hosted over 80 small businesses in 2022, including 11 beginning farmers, who made a total \$1.4 million last year. MFM distributed over \$130,000 in SNAP benefits and Double Up Food Bucks in 2022, accounting for about 10% of our vendor sales. Double Up Food Bucks not only supports our small farmers but allows low income community members to have access to fresh, local produce. Inflation and impacts of COVID-19 has decreased food access in our neighborhood. Access to Double Up Food Bucks is essential for shoppers to feed their families. Last year, we saw over 400 new Double Up Food Bucks users at MFM and a 180% increase in the amount of Double Up Food Bucks we distributed. Support of HB 2728 will continue to advance this program to better feed our neighbors, support Oregon farmers, and grow the local economy.

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.

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Sincerely,

Lisa Hall

Portland, OR

Montavilla Farmers Market