

Submitter: mark smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

I am writing in support of House Bill 2979 to continue funding for the Snap Double Up and Produce Match programs through the General Fund. I rely on these programs to stretch my food budget and purchase fresh healthy foods. My Snap benefits only cover about 1/2 of my food costs even with the Double Up and Produce Match programs. I am sure you are aware that benefits have not kept up with food costs. Oregon has already lowered my Snap benefits for 2025 making it harder to make ends meet. I am currently 67 years old living on Social Security benefits and in good health due in large part to my ability to purchase healthy fresh foods. I can't afford a car and rely on my e-bike to travel to the farmers markets and store that offer these programs. This also supports local small farms and the local economy while keeping me active and out of the doctors office.