



February 18, 2019

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

My name is Emily Cooper. I am a Gresham resident and owner/operator of Full Cellar Farm. I am writing to request your support for SB 727.

SB 727 would support 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.

As the owner of a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm, I have seen how Double Up Food Bucks can make membership in our farm share program possible for low-income folks. In the years I was able to offer Double Up Food Bucks (2016-17), 11-12% of my members were SNAP recipients. In 2018, when the original funding for the program lapsed, fewer than 3% of my members paid with SNAP.

We are so fortunate in Oregon to have such a strong and vibrant community of local farms, producing healthy food and selling it directly to our neighbors through farmers' markets and CSAs. However, while middle- and upper-income people are able to access those markets, low-income people continue to be underserved by Oregon farms, in part because of the high price that small farmers like me have to charge for our products. Double Up Food Bucks helps close that gap, making healthy, local food accessible to more Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

Emily Cooper
Gresham, OR