



February 17, 2019

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Oregon Farmers Markets Association, representing more than 100 farmers market member locations throughout the state, to express our **support for SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO), a dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program on which many of our markets, their vendors and their customers rely. This program is a proven winner in-state and nationally, with major impacts and the potential to leverage additional federal and private investments.

SNAP matching is good for families. Evidence collected from previous years of this program indicates that nearly every family participating in DUFBO had more food in the house (81%) and more of that food was fruits and vegetables (90%). This is *such* a major health impact for our communities bringing fresh, local food to the plates of folks of all economic levels.

SNAP matching is also good for farmers. A majority of farmers market vendors hailing from DUFBO markets reported an increase in their sales (69%) and a broadening of their customer base (74%). Farming is a tough business and the margins are slim, so any program that increases the bottom lines of our food producers is a boon for our Oregon agricultural community; as evidenced by the broad support expressed by the diverse food and farm policy groups that have joined this coalition of supporters.

SNAP matching is good for farmers markets, too. Given the fact that the average age of an Oregonian farmer is 58 yrs old, any way to support food business entrepreneurs as they enter the local foods economy is a big win. As farmers markets are widely acknowledged as critical incubator spaces for new and beginning farmers, committing state dollars to an initiative that shores up that access point is a smart investment.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on this matter on behalf of Oregon's farmers market community. A few of our member markets have requested the opportunity to provide additional testimony of their own about the importance of this legislation, and we will be providing those letters as well for your consideration. We urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Crane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "K" and a distinct "C" at the end.

Kelly Crane, Executive Director
Oregon Farmers Markets Association

Dexter Lake Farmers Market
Post Office Box 561
Lowell, Oregon 97452

February 19, 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am the Owner and market manager at the Dexter Lake Farmers Market in Lowell, Oregon. I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own market.

This program is important to our market, our customers and our vendors because there are many low income people in Lowell. They are important customers to us. We work hard to make available a variety of fresh and nourishing fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, and other farm items. And so much else! Wild crafted mushrooms, locally baked goods, meat products, fresh locally grown eggs, and cheese from the goat dairy in our area.

Low income families deserve the very best in nutrition. At our market, people can use their SNAP cards, and their Farm Direct checks. We have participated in the Double Up Bucks Program in recent years, which enables low income Oregonians to expand the scope of their food budget by doubling the first \$10. charged to their SNAP card on each weekly visit.

Our market has been in existence for 10 years, and we have contributed to economic growth in the area by bringing in between \$10,000 and \$20,000 gross receipts yearly, in the form of direct income to our vendors. We have had several vendors who got their start at Dexter Lake Farmers Market move on to larger markets, our market having served as a business incubator.

I want to describe a visit from two SNAP customers, a mother and a daughter, who live together. The younger woman has 4 children and is employed. Her mother shares responsibility for child care. Each woman spent \$10 on her SNAP card, and each then got \$10. worth of double up bucks. Shopping together, one got \$10. In vegetable starts, and the other, \$10 in food items, including strawberries for the children! The women were so happy with their purchases, and it was easy to see how adding \$20 to their food budget greatly increased the nutritional intake of six individuals.

Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.

Marion L. Toepke McLean
Dexter Lake Farmers Market
Lowell, Oregon

Florence Farmers Market, Florence Oregon

Dear Oregon Farmers Market Association,

As President of the Florence Farmers Market in Florence Oregon, I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar to dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own Market.

The SNAP/DoubleUp program is important to our Market, our customers and our vendors because it increases food equity in our community. We want our Market to provide food for our entire community regardless of economic status. As a first year Market we were able to provide this support through our SNAP program. A total of 71 families participated in our SNAP/DU program over a 23week Market period, spending a total of \$4,270 redeemed dollars. For a small (8-10 vendor) first year Market, we felt the SNAP/DU program made a significant impact on the total sales for vendors and brought good will as well as more fresh foods into our community.

Here are some of the things that our farmers are saying about the Florence Farmers Market:

- Brandon Huff, Ambrosia Farm: The success of the FFM will require them to increase their production for next year, making their dream of a farm-based business viable.
- Natalie LEtoile, LEtoile Farm: Next year we are going to double our strawberry crop to meet the demands of the FFM. It was a real income changer for us!
- Eileen Fuller Angilletta, shopper: So excited about our new FFM! The selection is already super, friendly people, and music. It is like a Tuesday party down on the water. I made a wonderful fresh veggie dinner and enjoyed a type of mushroom I never had before last night.
- Patricia Benfield, shopper: Nice variety of produce and other food items (jellies, pickles, spices/rubs). Very helpful sellers. Live cooking display. Info on going green and recycle.

Thanks for considering this matter, and allowing us to provide written testimony.
On behalf of FFM and the Community of Florence, I urge your consideration of
this bill.

Mary Shaw,
President, Florence Farmers Market
Florence, Oregon



February 14, 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

We are the board and staff of Hollywood Farmers Market and Lloyd Farmers Market in Portland, and we are writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own market.

In 2005, Hollywood Farmers Market (HFM) was one of the first farmers markets in Oregon to allow customers to use their EBT/SNAP benefits in exchange for wooden market tokens. In 2010, we created our own SNAP matching program, responding to the growing need for food assistance for low-income members of our community, by providing additional tokens matching their benefit dollars. Since then, we have distributed more than \$150,000 in SNAP Match at the Hollywood Farmers Market and our sister market the Lloyd Farmers Market, helping thousands of low-income residents add fresh, local produce to their diet.

Initially, our SNAP match was funded out of HFM's operating budget. Demand for the program grew steadily, and eventually led us to seek outside funding in order to continue. In 2015, Farmers Market Fund led a statewide collaboration to secure a two-year USDA grant for Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, allowing HFM to increase our weekly match from \$5 to \$10 per customer. This additional support resulted in a **43% increase in SNAP recipients shopping at our farmers market.**

This federal grant ended in March 2018, and farmers markets across the state lost their funding for Double Up Food Bucks. Many were forced to end their programs entirely. Hollywood Farmers Market's size and community support have enabled us to raise funds for the program through small grants and donations from local businesses. This year, however, we were forced to cut other programs and raise rates on our farmers in order to continue matching SNAP at the level needed by our community. **Ultimately, even our program will not be sustainable without public funding.**

Double Up Food Bucks has an invaluable effect on our community, improving the health and food security of our neighbors in Northeast Portland. In program surveys, SNAP recipients overwhelmingly say that the match increases their consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, and allows them to have more food in their home throughout the month. Some of their comments from these surveys:

- "I have a chronic health condition, so fresh veggies and fruits help to give me a better quality of life. The only way I can afford fresh produce is through this program."
- "This program is actually helping my kids grow! They have eaten more fruit this summer than ever before."

- "I feel much more connected to the community and to the food I eat when I buy fresh and local from the farmers market. Thank you!"

Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.

Ari Rosner, Market Coordinator
Hollywood Farmers Market and Lloyd Farmers Market
Portland, OR



February 17, 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am the board chair at the La Grande Farmers' Market in La Grande, and I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own market.

This program helps low-income seniors and families in Union County and elsewhere in the state access more fresh, healthy, Oregon-grown produce and increases sales for farmers like me. For the last three years we have had Double Up Food Bucks at our market. In 2018 we matched over \$10,000 with DUFBO, which meant more local produce in people's stomachs and more dollars in farmers' pockets.

The impact of DUFBO at our market is real and was immediate. In 2016 when we started the program, we distributed \$7,500 in Double Up Food Bucks. The first year we saw an additional \$4,000 in SNAP dollars spent—a 70% increase over the previous year. As we continued the program in 2017 and 2018, SNAP usage has continued at this level and the number of new SNAP shoppers continues to increase. This means an increasing number of people are able to increase their consumption of fresh produce.

Over 4,900 people in Union County use SNAP to buy food for themselves and their families. This program has been wildly successful and popular in our rural town. It is one of the most direct ways to support farms, farmers' markets, and healthy eating in our community.

Sincerely,

Liberty Avila
Board Chair, La Grande Farmers Market



Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Klatt. I am a Farmers Market manager as well as a rancher, as well as a resident in Culver, Oregon. I am writing to request your support for **SB 727**.

I'm writing to ask you to support SB 727, to 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.

This program is important to me because Food Insecurity affects far more Oregonians than is realized. It is hard to think of our fellow citizens going hungry or not being able to afford to buy the healthy foods they need. This is especially true for families, those with young children. It is a known and proven fact that eating a healthy and wholesome diet, including fruit and vegetables, helps prevent or alleviate many chronic diseases and conditions. At our Madras Saturday Market, in Madras, Oregon, we participated in the Double Up Food Bucks Oregon program in 2016 and 2017. At that time there were over 4,000 people on SNAP benefits in Jefferson County. We were gratified to see many of these people come to our Market and get the extra benefits DUFB provided for them to buy fresh fruit and vegetables from our produce vendors. It will be a win-win for Oregon, Farmers Markets, Vendors and the SNAP recipients to have this Double Up Food Bucks program again, through passage of SB 727.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Nancy Klatt, Manager for Madras Saturday Market and co-owner of Remuda Ranch
Culver, Oregon



February 18, 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am the Board President at Montavilla Farmers Market in Portland, and I am writing to express our support for SB 727 / HB 2837. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own market where it is a key program in our objective to create direct sales opportunities for farmers and provide healthful, fresh, local food to our whole Montavilla community.

In 2017, our market served 344 low-income individuals and their families as a place to buy local and organic, farm-direct foods with their SNAP benefits. We gave away \$12,300 in DUFBO matches, and combined with these shoppers' own SNAP funds, \$27,900 was spent with local farms and food producers at our market alone. Vendors benefited with multiplied sales, and our customers reported in shopping surveys that coming to the farmers market was responsible for increasing the amount and variety of fresh fruits and vegetables they eat, making DUFBO instrumental in creating a thriving market and a healthier community. We were able to do this thanks to the DUFBO funding program achieved by the Farmers Market Fund through a USDA grant.

In 2018 however, this funding ran out, and while many Montavilla citizens and businesses contributed over \$8000 in donations towards keeping the program available to their neighbors, our market was not able to sustain a match throughout the full season. We began the year with an average of 38 SNAP shoppers attending on most market days. When the match ended, the difference was stark — most days had fewer than 13 SNAP shoppers attending. Without DUFBO, the buying power of our SNAP shoppers is dramatically reduced and they are effectively shut out of the market, as well as leaving farm vendors with that much less income.

Expanding the DUFBO program as proposed with SB 727 / HB 2837 would mean SNAP customers could count on MFM, and farmers markets across the state, as a place for easy access to nutritious and affordable foods, and that they can participate in supporting the regional

agriculture economy. This is captured in a quote from market shopper and customer, Mary Diehl, when she says, “SNAP benefits have been an essential tool in the quest to feed my family. With SNAP matching programs such as DUFEB, I have been able to include healthier choices while supporting my local farmers. I consider that a win-win situation.”

Montavilla Farmers Market believes that everyone, regardless of income, should have the opportunity to eat healthy, high-quality food that nourishes both the body and our community. Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.

Craig Milliken
Board President, Montavilla Farmers Market
Portland, Oregon



2/18/18

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

The Oregon City Farmers Market Board and I are writing to express our support for SB 727 / HB 2837. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO).

This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program is important to the Oregon City Farmers Market as it provides our low-income community members with healthy foods that they may well not be able to afford normally, attracting customers who otherwise might not shop with us and at the same time providing our small farmers with more income, keeping them viable on their lands. It's a 'win win' program on so many levels. Providing more healthful foods to financially struggling young families and seniors keeps the cost of health care down and the funding flows through to the local farms who then spend it back in their rural communities creating economic development for small towns via the multiplier effect.

Once the initial DUFBO funding ended we had to cut the \$10 'match' back to \$6, and have been vigorously fundraising, holding raffles, collecting donations, every month. One of our Board members offered \$1000 of his own money to keep it going as he saw the great value in the program. Since we started the DUFBO program in 2016 we have given out \$26,389 to financially-struggling families and helped with 3,033 shopping trips to the market.

Our low income customers are so appreciative and grateful of this program help. Below are just some of the many written comments we have captured:

"During some of our most difficult times this program has ensured my kids have fresh produce. Thank you."

"I cannot tell you how much I appreciate this program. I'm trying to serve the healthiest food I can to my family and this is huge help. Thanks!"

"The OCFM and their DUFBO program are a great blessing to me. As a senior on a fixed income the match enables me to buy more of the fresh produce that is vital to regaining and maintaining my health. Thank you very much!!"

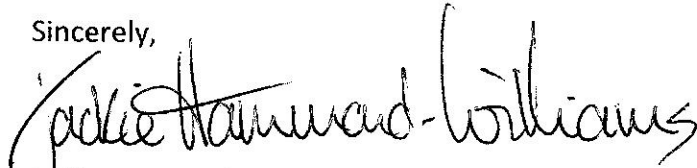
"I am a single senior citizen and I love that I can get healthy choices of fresh foods. I am very grateful"



"There are 5 children in our family I do my best to stretch everything as far as possible. You have no idea how much this extra money helps make sure everyone gets something good to eat"
"Thank You so much. You have increased the health of my family and the wealth of our community. Awesome!"

Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We strongly urge their support of this bill that will create such value in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Hammond-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Hammond-Williams
Manager OCFM.



Spencer Creek Community Growers Markets

18 February 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am Board President of the Spencer Creek Community Growers Market in Eugene, and I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own markets.

This program is important to our markets, our customers and our vendors. This year marks our 10th year serving customers in rural neighborhoods south and west of Eugene. We have been accepting DUFBO at the main location of our market since 2016 and at our second location since its establishment in 2017. Hugely popular in the rural areas we serve, the DUFBO program never fails to elicit smiles and expressions of gratitude from folks receiving SNAP benefits who constantly seek affordable ways to feed their families healthy fruits and vegetables.

Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Glenn Harden

Spencer Creek Growers Markets

Eugene, OR 97405

spencercreekmarkets.org



Feb. 18, 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am the Market Manager at the Tillamook Farmers Market in Tillamook, and I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own market – as well as all the markets within our county.

This program is important to our market, our customers and our vendors for a multitude of reasons. The majority of folks who participated in this program in 2018 fell into two categories: seniors or families. For some of our seniors, visiting the Market to participate in the DUFBO program was the only time they left their house. It provided social interaction and access to healthy foods. One lady in particular told me how sad she was when the season was over and she wasn't able to buy as much produce to feed herself with. The other category we saw every single Saturday was families. Some of these families had several children they needed to feed, and the extra money went a long way to providing food for them and making healthy choices. Last year alone, the Tillamook Farmers Market did \$3,837 in sales – including SNAP and DUFBO. We have about 14 vendors who can accept SNAP and anywhere from 7-9 who can accept DUFBO. These extra dollars help support these farmers through the season and into the off season.

Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sayde Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sayde Walker
Tillamook Farmers Market Manager



February, 15, 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am the Market Manager at the Umpqua Valley Farmers Market in Roseburg, and I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own market.

This program is important to our market, our customers and our vendors because it increases access to fresh fruits and vegetables for under privileged folks in our community who don't have easy access to fresh, local, highly nutritious fruits and vegetables. This outing to the market is uplifting to their spirit, increases their health and wellness, lessens illness, increases their social interactions as they spread the word and invite others who can benefit, and helps them be involved in their community.

In 2018, we had an 11.6% increase in SNAP users, and a 68% decrease in funding for Double Up Food Bucks, which is 2,370 less meals in our community. In 2017, we redeemed \$10,182 in Double Up Food Bucks. We are working hard to seek out donations for our Double Up program, but are running into road blocks, as we are not set up as a non-profit. SB 727/HB 2837 would allow us the security and funding to meet the life giving needs of the least fortunate in our community. Our customers and vendors count on this program to help supplement their food dollars and income. I have had customers, in tears of gratitude, express how much healthier their families can eat with that extra \$40-\$50 for produce per month. In an uncertain economical climate, these families rely on this program for peace of mind. Our farmers use those extra funds to buy seeds and hoop houses to grow our food, to pay part-time or fulltime employees, or to fix a piece of broken machinery. These funds are crucial to the circle of farm to table.

Here are some of the things that our farmers market community had to say about how this program has benefitted their lives and livelihoods:

Anna Tamboer/SNAP customer

My home and life were burned to the ground and I had no insurance nor did I have my gardens and greenhouses which kept me alive, fed, and healthy. I am currently at the Samaritan Inn, a homeless shelter for women, in Roseburg. My EBT food money is a gift I treasure and thank the lord for, but it does NOT go very far when my options are as limited as they are. Having the Farmers Market ¼ mile from where I have been staying at, has been a life saver.....And the bonus blessing of a few extra dollars matching my food allowance HAS SAVED MY LIFE!! I'm humbled by the generosity, the blessing, the HOPE that comes with these few extra dollars that genuinely keep me alive. For this act of giving, of generosity, of hope for a healthier community, I thank you. (full letter is attached)

Glen Lehne/Farmers Perspective of Doubleup Food Bucks/Lehne Farms

Here are my general impressions/observations of the Doubleup Food Bucks:

- *Farmers Market are one of that last few places where all segments of society come together. In our polarized, segmented, "stove-piped" communities, it is refreshing to see folks rubbing shoulders with others they routinely would not.*
- *Farmers markets are known as small business" incubators". These markets are microcosms of enterprise demonstrating the basic principles of the free-market system.*
- *Efforts instituted and funded either, or in combination of both private and public governmental, that stimulate farmers market success invigorates the whole community.*
- *Doubleup Food Bucks is one of those efforts that needs continued support.*
- *When this program had funds available for distribution, I witnessed the following:*
 - o *More families with younger children came to the market and took advantage of these funds. Everyone tries to make their "food dollars" stretch to its maximum extent possible. Having additional funds to use influences these families to utilize them for farmers market foods that, while more expensive monetarily, are more valuable nutritionally.*
 - o *There was more diversity in customers attending farmers markets. Word of mouth is a powerful advertisement. Quite often, there were individuals who came to the market because an acquaintance of theirs was benefitting from the Doubleup Food Bucks program. When funds dried up the portion of young families with kids attending farmers market significantly dropped.*
 - o *Eating healthier is a common goal to address that overall health of our national population. Healthier lifestyle choices alleviate stressors on our nation. Fewer are sick, more able-bodied individuals provide greater productivity and innovation. The list of benefits is immense with regards to a healthier general population. However, these choices don't come easy. Habits, good and bad, are formed with consistent action. Additionally, habits are formed at a young age.*

The Doubleup Food Bucks is a prime tool to develop opportunities for these healthy habits to formulate and mature.

Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.

Amanda Pastoria/Umpqua Valley Farmers Market Manager
Umpqua Valley Farmers Market
Roseburg, Oregon



18 February 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am the Market Manager at the Wallowa County Farmers' Market in Joseph, and I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own market.

This program is important to our market, our customers and our vendors because this program significantly increases our community's access to fresh, local food, and enhances community-wide economic development efforts. In Wallowa County, we are one of the most rural markets in Oregon, and we serve one of the most underserved and underrepresented populations in the state. In 2018, over 95% of SNAP funds distributed were matched with DUFBO funds, doubling almost all of the funds available to SNAP customers shopping at our market.

DUFBO also increases the sales for our produce vendors, which sometimes face challenges from the high concentration of tourists in our customer base, and helps get their products into more homes in our community, not just those who can afford it at face value. There already exist a number of social, economic and physical barriers to access any farmers market, and the consistent availability of DUFBO at our market increases the number of regular customers who come support our local farmers and bring high quality food into their households. The influx of these funds to our rural community only benefits our ongoing economic development efforts, and increases the viability of more innovative solutions.

Here are some of the things that our farmers market community had to say about how this program has benefited their lives and livelihoods:

The SNAP and DUFB programs have undoubtedly increased my customer base and connected me with a wide range of people at the the Wallowa County Farmers' Market. As small farm owner and manager, these programs really support my operation, Alder Slope Gardens, and help make our local farmers market a viable and profitable outlet.

- *Nathan Slinker, Alder Slope Gardens*

Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Aumann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily Aumann
Market Manager
Wallowa County Farmers' Market
Joseph, OR



Whiteaker Community Market
Eugene, Oregon
www.whiteakercommunitymarket.com

February 18th, 2019

Dear Oregon Farmers Markets Association,

I am the Market Manager at the Whiteaker Community Market in Eugene, and I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 / HB 2837**. This legislation is important to Oregon's farmers markets because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This dollar-to-dollar SNAP matching program has proven to be successful across the state and has been very impactful at our own market.

This program is important to our market, our customers, and our vendors. We are a small neighborhood market, founded four years ago with the mission to increase access to fresh produce in our low-income neighborhood. In 2017, we raised enough money to lease and operate a POS terminal in order to process our customer's SNAP benefits. Sales at our farmer booths increased dramatically! The following year, in 2018, we partnered with a local organization to fund Double Up Food Bucks at the Whiteaker Community Market. Again, we saw sales at our farmer vendors booths steadily rise. One of our regular customers Joan said to me at the end of last season,

*"Double Up Food Bucks increases my chances of making it to the end of the month.
It saves the day for me!" -Joan*

Not only does Double Up Food Bucks help seniors on fixed incomes like Joan afford healthy foods, it also helps alleviate hunger in our low-income communities. It also provides incredible financial support to our local farmers. In 2018, \$1,077 of Double Up Food Bucks were redeemed with our small and beginning farmers. This was a huge benefit to them, and helped them continue to farm and provide our neighborhood with quality local, organic, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

However, I am worried that we won't be able to fundraise enough money every year to continue to provide Double Up Food Bucks at my small market. I need the support from my local and State government to ensure equitable access to healthy foods and healthy economies.

Please do provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them on our behalf for the opportunity for us to provide written testimony. We urge their support of this bill.



Claire Schechtman,
Market Manager

Whiteaker Community Market
Eugene, Oregon