

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lili Tova and I am a farmer in Sandy. I am writing to request your support for **SB 727**.

SB 727 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.

This program is important to me because every week when I am working at the farmers market I hear how much folks appreciate the program and how it encourages people to shop for fresh produce. I think it is incredibly important that we work towards an economy where fresh, local and organic produce are available to every person. As a farmer I know the true cost of producing fresh and organic food for my community and want to ask for a price at the market that supports my self, my family, and the people who work on my farm. I also want to be selling my food to people from a multitude of income levels as I don't think it reflects well on the local food movement to be seen as only serving one class of people. Double up food bucks not only allows people to access fresh food it also incentivizes and rewards people for supporting local farmers and ranchers. For me this is a win-win as it's more money into local small businesses and more money to feed people who deserve access to fresh healthy food.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Lili Tova
Flying Coyote Farm
Sandy, OR