



February 20, 2019

Dear Chair & Gelsler & Committee Members,

As Executive Director of Portland Farmers Market I am writing to express our support for **SB 727 and 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.

We launched our first SNAP matching program at the King Farmers Market in NE Portland when it opened 10 years ago! In those years, we've improved the lives of thousands of low income shoppers with healthy food via Double Up Food Bucks at that one market alone. DUFBO allows a lot of fresh, local food to go home with neighbors who do not otherwise have access to such bounty.

Since then, we expanded DUFBO to our Kenton, Northwest, Buckman and Lents neighborhood farmers markets. However, we are regularly asked at our Portland State University Market and other downtown markets "Why is there not DUFBO here?" The answer is sadly, lack of funding. Demand for the program is great, but ongoing fundraising is a challenge.

Our farmers request too, that we offer DUFBO at more markets. They report how SNAP and DUFBO improve their bottom line. While our farmers sell direct to consumers in Portland, their success here allows them to buy equipment, hire workers and support schools in their own rural communities. The impact of DUFBO ripples out to our entire state - even when a sale is made in Portland.

Finally, PFM is the companion organization of Farmers Market Fund (FMF), the charitable group that would administer the state funds for DUFBO if passed. We founded FMF in 2012 and have cultivated its growth into a thriving statewide leader for SNAP matching programs. We pledge to continue supporting FMF with all of our resources to assure great success in this next level of DUFBO for farmers, food insecure citizens and our state's overall economic health.

Please share this letter with 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.

Trudy Toliver
Executive Director
trudy@portlandfarmersmarket.org

