



February 20, 2019

Dear esteemed Senators,

I am the executive director that the Portland Area CSA Coalition. I strongly urge your support for **SB 727**. This legislation is important to Oregon's CSA farms because it supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO). This SNAP incentive program has proven to be successful across the state and has directly improved vegetable access for low-income Oregonians.

When DUFBO was first financed by a federal grant in 2016, farms in our Coalition sold 183 CSA shares to SNAP recipients. We were able to provide discounts to 104 of those customers. In 2017, we saw our sales increase to 334, with 208 shares qualifying for DUFBO assistance.

In 2018, the grant had been exhausted, and our CSA sales to SNAP recipients decreased to 159 shares – we lost almost half the customers from the previous year. This amounts to a loss of \$105,000 in sales spread across 12 small farms.

DUFBO has a direct, positive, and fast impact on selling fresh vegetables to low-income families. And a big impact on the viability of our small farms. With only \$20,000 in 2017, we were able to improve the diets of 400 people, and increase our farm sales by \$105,000. With continued support, we could increase sales year-over-year.

DUFBO works immediately, and is also a great long-term investment in Oregonians' health. It is a powerful and vital program.

Please provide this letter to the legislators considering this matter, and thank them for the opportunity for me to provide written testimony. I urge their support of this bill.

Holly Hutchason

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Holly Hutchason'.

Executive Director

Portland Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition