

February 19, 2019

Oregon Senate Committee on Human Services  
900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301



Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Sorg, I am the Executive Director of Food Roots, a non profit organization serving Tillamook County. Food Roots mission is to grow a robust food system for our north coast Oregon communities by supporting farmers and food entrepreneurs, increasing visibility and knowledge about local food opportunities for all, and engaging our community in this work. I am writing today 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.

Every year, new struggling families become eligible for SNAP due to loss of income for a myriad of reasons, more often than not, outside of their control. A mother should not have to make decisions that prioritize home utilities or rent over nutritious food purchases for their children and for themselves. SB 727 will safeguard funding that will enable parents to stretch food dollars and incentivize purchases of local fruits and vegetables for their children. National studies show data that confirms healthy eating in children leads to positive behavior in schools and better academic outcomes. Oregon ranks 33 in education among other U.S. states. Investing in SB 727 is an investment in Oregon's health, economy and education.

This program is important to me because I believe that nutritious foods grown locally should be affordable to all community members, and that all community members, no matter their income level, should be able to invest their food dollars in Tillamook County's food economy. SB 727 would be a win for my community not only for its impact on its low-income community members utilizing SNAP benefits, but a win for our small family farmers and agricultural businesses participating in farm-direct marketplaces where this program will be implemented. Thank you for the consideration and for your service. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 727 for Oregon children and families

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lauren Sorg'.

Lauren Sorg  
Executive Director, Food Roots  
Tillamook, Oregon