



February 25, 2021

**HB 2292**  
**House Committee on Human Services**

Chair Williams and Members of the Committee:

My name is Zetty Nemlowill. I am the Marketing Director of Astoria Co+op, a community-owned grocery store in Astoria, OR. I am writing to request your support for HB 2292. This bill supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks, a program with a record of success in our store.

A large part of our mission is to provide access to healthy food for everyone in our community. Unfortunately, healthy fresh food is not always affordable compared to processed food. The Double Up program allows many of our shoppers and rural residents to double their purchases of fresh fruits and veggies; something we all need in our diets for good health.

Every day we hear from folks who participate in this program and they express how important Double Up is to their monthly food budget. There is also a positive economic impact for the co-op. We sell more produce than we would otherwise and because we are locally owned our earnings are re-invested back into the community.

Covid-19 has had a negative impact on our store's performance mainly because we had to close a large portion of our deli. So, without continued funding for Double Up, we would not be able to continue this program on our own.

During a global health crisis, it is crucial that we all have access to nutritious food. Our immune systems need optimal nutrition. We are all under elevated stress too, especially those who rely on SNAP and other safety nets to survive. Please vote in favor of this bill and keep healthy fresh produce accessible to our community.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zetty Nemlowill".

Zetty Nemlowill/Astoria Co+op Marketing Director  
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