



February 26, 2021

Chair Williams and Members of the Committee:

My name is Emily Cooper. I am a Gresham resident and owner/operator of Full Cellar Farm in Boring. I am writing to request your support for HB 2292.

These bills would support 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.

As the owner of a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm, I have seen how Double Up Food Bucks can make membership in our farm share program possible for low-income folks. In past years when we were able to offer Double Up Food Bucks, as many as 12% of our members were SNAP recipients. In years without DUFB, fewer than 3% of our members paid with SNAP.

Our farm takes food access seriously, and we are proud to have a member-funded scholarship fund that allows us to offer reduced-price shares to low-income households. DUFB helps our farm's scholarship program go farther, because it makes the price more accessible for SNAP recipients, allowing us to reserve most of our scholarship funds for low-income folks who don't qualify for SNAP.

We are so fortunate in Oregon to have such a strong and vibrant community of local farms, producing healthy food and selling it directly to our neighbors through farmers' markets and CSAs. However, while middle- and upper-income people are able to access those markets, low-income people continue to be underserved by Oregon farms, in part because of the high price that small farmers like me have to charge for our products. Double Up Food Bucks helps close that gap, making healthy, local food accessible to more Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

Emily Cooper
Gresham, OR