

Submitter: Anna Curtin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Curtin. I live in Sandy and work in Canby. I am a farmer, farmers market employee and board member with Oregon Farmers Markets Association. I am writing to request your support for HB 2728.

HB 2728 supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP matching program with demonstrated success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm stands, CSA programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

This program is important to me personally and professionally. I chose farming and a career with farmers markets because I believe everyone deserves access to fresh, healthy foods regardless of income, social status and housing conditions. HB 2728 helps achieve this goal for the most food insecure in our communities. It puts nutrient dense foods within reach for families and individuals who may not otherwise be able to afford it. I see with every market the positive impact Double Up Food Bucks has on people. The program invites people to diversify their diets in healthy ways and engage with us about the crops we grow. At a time when rising food costs are putting fresh foods out of reach for increasing numbers of people, the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks through HB 2728 would be a godsend for communities across our state.

The positive economic impact Double Up Food Bucks has on our farm business is significant. The program contributes several hundred dollars per week, year-round, to our small organic vegetable farm. As you may well know, farming operates on the most slender of profit margins. Funds from programs like Double Up Food Bucks directly translates into field expansions, working equipment, supply purchases from local businesses, and increased resiliency of our regional food-shed.

With gratitude for your service and thanks for your consideration,
Anna Curtin
Sandy, Oregon