

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Cooper, and I own Full Cellar Farm, a 40-acre mixed vegetable farm in Boring. 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 a proven record of 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 because it helps more families afford our vegetables. Our farm mission has always included improving food access so that more people can afford our produce, and Double Bucks has been instrumental in making that happen. We run a CSA program in which people pay up front for 22 weeks of vegetable boxes, which are delivered from June through October. For people working paycheck to paycheck, that up-front payment can be prohibitive.

This year, with the support of Double Up Food Bucks, 50% of the cost of our veggie boxes will be covered for people who pay with SNAP. That will make a huge impact for low-income members of our CSA, especially as pandemic-era SNAP relief programs end and some of our members see their benefits slashed.

I hope you will support this bill, which will benefit both SNAP recipients and small farms in our state. Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily Cooper
Boring, OR