

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Week. I am a farmer serving customers across the Portland Metro. 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 ensures that my community has equitable access to the very same quality local food that those in our community with more wealth have easy and simple access to. Food is a human right and currently SNAP along with DUFB help ensure that our most at risk, vulnerable and marginalized communities have access to healthy, local, nutrient dense produce. I am a member of our Native American community here in Portland, and it's a well known fact that the Native American community has the highest rate of poverty and lack of food access today. I became a farmer for them. I tend to our ancestral lands and grow food for my community who has been so wronged by this government since contact.

I hear from them that my pricing structures for produce from my Farm is extremely helpful, deeply needed and greatly appreciated. But the government should rely on me alone, I am not the solution to this widespread problem, nor should the government have me go at this alone. Together, the Committee, I, other Farmers and community partners we can begin to implement iterative and incremental positive impact. I need your ongoing support, my community needs your ongoing support and advocacy.

As is well known the additional emergency allotments for SNAP are coming to an end. DUFB will undoubtedly be carrying that weight forward. COVID caused a spike in food insecurity and need for support in accessing food - a human right - and currently we are seeing inflation rates increase in response to COVID highlighting the impact a global pandemic has had on our local communities in real time. As a farmer I am seeing my equipment, infrastructure, and other general costs double. DUFB won't solve all these barriers but it'll certainly support the more than 25% of my customers who choose to support and buy produce from me and that is a huge impact. **I urge you to support HB 2728.**

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Michelle Week, Portland, Oregon