

Submitter: Jade Novarino

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jade Novarino. I am a farmer who provides food to Portland, Oregon and the surrounding areas, and 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.

DUFB changed how I consumed food when it first became available to me at farmer's markets. Years later, I became a farmer and I found how much it impacted others as well. I hear from so many customers that they wouldn't be able to eat farm fresh food and feel nourished or food sovereign if it weren't for those DUFB. It helps people access hands-down better food and it helps farmers sales increase. It helps us make sure we can feed the people, not just those who make high wages, but anyone. In the 2022 market season, half of our market sales were from DUFB. No one should be turned away from healthy and culturally relevant foods, grown locally, and intentionally. We were shown during the height of the pandemic how fragile our systems are—how access to food shipped in from other places was so precarious. What would it be saying to our farmers and citizens if we took away these important benefits, which help so many access our food, and rely on cheap food from supermarkets? Food that, in this economy, isn't even cheap anymore, and is certainly lower quality. Show us farmers and citizens that you care about our well-being and our health and us thriving in community and further support the DUFB program.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Jade Novarino, Portland, Oregon