

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Teri Anne Finnerty. I am a farmers market manager in Ontario in Malheur county and I am writing to request your support for **HB 2728**.

HB 2728 supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFBO), 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 for a maximum of \$20.00 per day. Shoppers include seniors and young families on limited income.

This program is important to me because as a market manager that implemented the program last year, I have seen its effect both financially for farmers and the buying power for young families. I strongly believe that good nutrition helps benefit the health and well-being of the community and money going to local farmers promotes the economy.

The local newspaper had an article recently stating that 27% of Malheur county's population receives SNAP benefits. The negative impact that Covid had on the economy and the rising inflation affects everyone's budget, but seeing young families and the seniors come to the Market this past summer and use SNAP and DUFBO to be able to purchase fresh produce was encouraging. It is a joy to watch the smiling face of a young child try a fresh carrot or berries for the first time or to see a senior smile to be able buy fresh garden produce like they once were capable of growing when younger. That is how the DUFBO program assists in this community.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service

Sincerely,

Teri Anne Finnerty
Ontario, Malheur County