

Submitter: Abby Kellner-Rode  
On Behalf Of: Central Oregon SNAP Community  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure: HB2728

My name is Abby Kellner-Rode. I am a farm owner of Boundless Farmstead in Bend, Oregon, and an active volunteer and supporter in Central Oregon with Bend Food Project (BFP), Central Oregon Locavore, Friends of Family Farmers, The Giving Plate (largest food pantry in CO) and High Desert Food and Farm Alliance(HDFFA). These nonprofits work to help food insecure community members with food access. 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 receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

Everyone deserves fresh and nutritious fruits and vegetables. Research has shown how important this is to a healthy diet. Double Up Food Bucks helps food insecure families bring home more nutritious fruits and veggies, while also supporting our farms at the farmers market. The program is very successful at our market and we see families coming back each week to shop and support our local farmers. The financial impact to our farm is also worth noting, and has encouraged us to sell to a wide variety of residents through Bend Farmers Market and through our CSAs. As rising inflation restricts community members' budgets more and more, and as food prices skyrocket, this program is crucial to support a healthy community and a thriving local economy.

I sincerely hope you will continue to support this very important program with HB 2728.

Thank you,

Abby Kellner-Rode  
Bend, OR