OREGON ORGANIC COALITION

February 5, 2023

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

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Board Chair of the Oregon Organic Coalition, based in Lyons, Oregon. I am writing to request your support for **HB 2728.**

HB 2728 will support 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.

The Oregon Organic Coalition supports the growth of the Double Up Food Bucks Oregon program because organic farmers, and farmers using organic practices, are a cornerstone of many of the farmers markets, farm stands, and CSA programs that are part of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon. Increasing support for consumers purchasing these products directly aids these organic farmers' bottom lines.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, globalized agriculture channels failed, and we collectively learned the importance of resilient regional food systems. Many of Oregon's small farmers rose to the occasion to feed communities across the state during a time of crisis. Oregon should continue to ensure that hungry families have access to this healthy, locally grown food, especially as Oregon continues to recover from the Covid-19 and potentially weathers a recession. Programs like these also help spur economic development in rural areas, which is needed now more than ever.

I also formerly served on the Board of Directors at People's Food Co-op and regularly volunteered at the Co-op's weekly farmers market where I helped process Double Up Food Bucks matches for market goers. Through this experience, I saw firsthand the benefit and positive impact the Double Up Food Bucks program has on a community that matters to me, and I would like to see it continue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Wong
Oregon Organic Coalition
Lyons, Oregon