

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2728

To: Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee  
From: Genevieve Schaack, Willamette Farm and Food Coalition  
RE: HB 2728- Support for Double Up Food Bucks

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My name is Genevieve Schaack. I am the Executive Director of Willamette Farm and Food Coalition in Eugene, OR. We support the local food system throughout Lane County. 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.

47,000 Lane County residents rely on SNAP benefits each month, or 1 out of every 6 of our neighbors. The end of the COVID era SNAP increase looms large and inflation running amok- our county alone will feel the ripple effect of an economic loss of millions of dollars each month that had previously been spent on food *each month*. Local food purchasing can help counteract that effect, as dollars spent on local food have greater economic impact than those spent elsewhere, while reducing carbon emissions and improving health outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

DUFB funding is vital for farmers, markets, and families alike. At the Whiteaker Community Sunday Markets, EBT and DUFB sales count for **one-third of overall food purchases**. This small, emerging farmers market serves a working class neighborhood and specializes in being accessible to farmers and artisans that are in the first five years of their business operation. DUFB not only helps families eat better, but generates opportunities for economic growth across sectors in our communities.

Please consider voting “Yes” on HB 2728 in support of DUFB, farmers, families, and Oregon.

*“DUFB has changed our lives for the better! We have changed our diets due to being able to afford and obtain the fresh produce, thanks to DUFB. We have been able to meet, befriend, and help support our local farmers for all the hard work they do every year. Our family’s health has improved, as well as our energy, and our ability to exercise more. The DUFB program has brought us more peace, because we stress less about the money we use for the food we NEED. We can’t thank you ALL enough for what the DUFB program has done for our family and all the others in our community!!”*

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Genevieve Schaack  
Eugene, OR

<sup>1</sup>Community Planning Workshop, University of Oregon (2010). Lane County Local Food Market Analysis. <https://cpw.uoregon.edu>