

Submitter: Lauren Sorg
On Behalf Of: Food Roots
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 Lauren Sorg, Executive Director of Food Roots, a non-profit organization serving the north Oregon coast. Our mission is to grow a robust and equitable food system, including increased access for nutritious Oregon grown food for food insecure community members. We believe that everyone has the right to choose the highest quality food available in our community and ongoing state support for this bill helps us to achieve our mission. Food Roots has been a DUFB-grocery store provider and partner with Oregon Food Bank since the state began providing these funds and have supported north coast farmers markets with their DUFB programs as well including community outreach. 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.

Food Roots operates a non-profit food hub, which connects our community directly to local farmers, fishers and other food producer's and their products. We served roughly 900 low-income rural community members last year with access to DUFB funds. We also began a food delivery program to home and community drop sites within Tillamook County in 2021. Both of these programs were launched in response to the 2020 pandemic and food supply chain issues as a result of COVID.

This program is a win win for our rural communities, with food insecure household benefiting from increased access to nutritious food, and food entrepreneurs benefiting from increased sales. We urge you to support ongoing legislative funding for this bill.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Lauren Sorg
Food Roots
Tillamook, OR