

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

My name is Kelsey Engstrom. I am a Farmers Market Manager in Clatskanie, Oregon. 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.

This program is so important to me and my new community because it will ultimately give rise to a successful and thriving town. The work that Clatskanie Farmers Market has done over the past 10 years is just a stepping stone. About 40% of the community of Clatskanie is low-income, so they rely heavily on food assistance programs in order to flourish. The farmers in this area are producing some of the most nutritional dense foods I have ever seen and being able to supply these nourishing foods to the community will improve their productivity and health for generations.

I know what it is like to live in a food desert with access to little or no fresh foods. Being in a restricted area severely affects the well-being of individuals and having programs like DUFB is what makes it possible for people to access these life-giving foods. I have spent my life so far diving into every area of the food system and I plan to do so for the rest of my career. I hope that programs like this will continue to thrive for all to have a fighting chance at living a full and healthy life.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Kelsey Engstrom, Clatskanie