

Submitter: Twila Pierson
On Behalf Of: North Coast Food Web
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Twila Pierson. I am a Farmers Market Manager in Astoria, 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 very important to our community. Everyone deserves access to fruits and vegetables.

Folks who are utilizing the SNAP benefit often times struggle to make the funds last a month and will sometimes choose foods that can be stretched as far as possible. The fact is, shelf stable foods tend to cost less.

This program has really been a huge benefit to our SNAP customers. They are able to purchase fruits and vegetables directly from the farmer and feed themselves and their families with a little more ease. The impact of this program is vast.

DUFB helps our customers who receive SNAP have more access to fresh food and also

provides income to our local farmers. This program has a great impact on our food system in our rural coastal community.

DUFB supports strengthening food security, boosting the economy and providing income to our local farmers.

These past few years have been challenging. The cost of food increased by over 10% in

2022, which impacted communities already facing disparities the hardest. Many Oregonians will

be losing pandemic-related food assistance after this month. Double Up Food Bucks is one

important way we can support community members struggling to afford food, invest in

Oregon's farmers, and support local economies.
Passing HB 2728 would mean that more Oregonians participating in SNAP would have access to fruits and vegetables. It means more grocery stores, farmers markets, and more CSAs in more corners of the state can participate.
I urge your support for HB 2728.

Sincerely,
Twila Pierson
Market and Food Access Manager- North Coast Food Web
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Astoria, Oregon