



January 29, 2021

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Josh Volk and I am a urban farmer in Portland. For the past ten years our farm in the Cully Neighborhood has supplied neighborhood residents healthy produce. I am writing to request your support for **SB 440 & 555**.

SB 555 and SB 440 support the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm share programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

The farm I run sells almost all of our produce as CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares. In the past years it's been wonderful to be able to offer our CSA members the option of paying for their shares of our fresh produce with their SNAP benefits. Just last year we had one member who wanted to pay with SNAP but wasn't sure they would be able to afford the full share price until we let them know that they were also eligible for the Double Up Food Bucks. Being able to make our produce available to members like this is exactly the way we want to be supporting our neighborhood, and without the help of SNAP and DUFB we wouldn't be able to afford to sell our produce to anyone who really needed it, but didn't have the means to pay in full.

With Covid, more of our neighborhood than ever is out of work and I expect that this coming spring we will see more need than ever for programs that help reduce the cost of produce, the kind that keeps our community healthy and able to make it through this pandemic.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Volk", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Josh Volk  
Slow Hand Farm  
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