

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Johnson, Senator Steiner Hayward, Representative Rayfield, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ashley Todd I am a Farmers' Market Manager and grocer in Portland. I am writing to request your support for **SB 5555**.

SB 5555 supports 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.

This program is important to me for several reasons. First, as the manager of People's Farmers' Market, I know that it helps people in my community eat more fresh fruits and vegetables. In 2020, an average of 50 families per week utilized the Double Up Food Bucks Program at our market, including over 200 folks using SNAP for the first time. I heard from some of these shoppers that they would not be able to feed their families fresh local produce without DUFB, and from others that they wouldn't be able to support local farmers and producers at all.

As a market manager, I also see firsthand how this program benefits local farmers and producers too. In 2020, shoppers spent \$25,812 in Double Up Food Bucks at People's Farmers' Market, on top of \$28,893 in SNAP benefits. That is nearly \$60K in food dollars that stayed in our community, enabling our farmers and producers to update their equipment, grow their businesses, and add staff. I even heard from some vendors that DUFB helped keep them afloat through the most difficult months of the pandemic.

Lastly, as a manager at People's Food Co-op, I am excited about how DUFB can help local grocers thrive, support local farms, and increase access to healthful foods in our communities. People's is currently participating in Oregon Food Bank's Double Up Food Bucks Grocery Pilot, and the \$27,000 in added sales we expect will enable us to retain our staff, to deepen our support of the 30+ local farms we work with, and to better serve our lower income shoppers, including working class families who have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your service.

Ashley Todd
Portland