

April 21, 2021

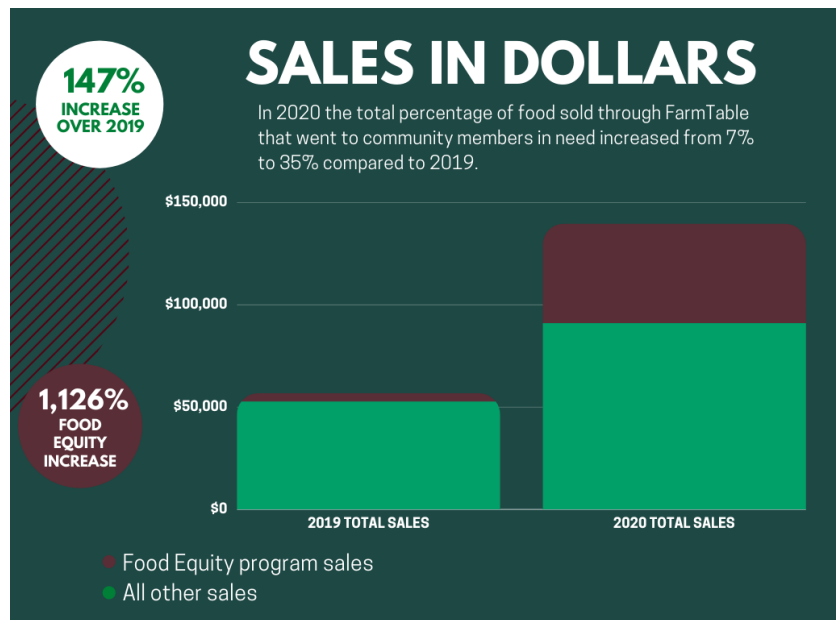


Co-Chairs Senator Johnson, Senator Steiner Hayward, Representative Rayfield, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Sorg and I am writing to you on behalf of Food Roots as the Executive Director. Some of you are already aware of Food Roots and our mission to grow an equitable and robust food system on Oregon's north coast. Our programming provides support for small and mid-sized food producers and connects our community and visitors to this good food; increasing both economic resiliency and food access through our work. Food Roots has been based in Tillamook County and has been serving our community as a 501c3 non-profit organization since 2006. I am writing to request your support for **SB 555**.

SB 555 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 markets across the state, shoppers will receive an extra dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

Food Roots has partnered with Oregon Food Bank over the past twelve months to pilot the DUFEB grocery store project in Oregon, among other grocers and outlets. Food Roots facilitates a local food marketplace which provides critical access to buyers for local food businesses and nutritious food to our community. In July of 2020, as a direct respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we launched an online marketplace in addition to our retail storefront in downtown Tillamook, and in Spring 2021, we've launched a new delivery service to tackle barriers to food access such as transportation in Tillamook County. We provide SNAP/EBT acceptance through these outlets and DUFEB to stretch the value of our low-income customers' food benefit dollars AND increase sales for local food businesses. This programming, running alongside strong community partnerships and networks has resulted in an 1100% increase in the total sales of our programming that go to food insecure households from 2020 compared to 2019.



Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your service to our communities.

Lauren Sorg  
Executive Director, Food Roots  
Tillamook County