

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tim Moore. I am a farmers market employee in Portland. I am writing to request your support for SB 440 and 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.

I get to see the benefit of this program every time I work a Farmers Market. There is an obvious benefit to the recipients of the Double Up Food Bucks DUFB program, but also additional benefit to farmers and Oregon communities. Each dollar that is spent at the market go toward strengthening our local economy and building small businesses, that includes DUFB. In addition, when people are afforded the ability to purchase fresh food there is a larger impact on public health and wellbeing that goes beyond the direct recipient of DUFB. Each citizen of Oregon benefits from the reduction in public health costs associated with food scarcity as a result of DUFB and a higher rate of food security. It is also known that eating regular meals and a balanced diet will help young people perform better in school, help those suffering from mental illness and promote healthy habits in our most marginalized communities.

I love the Double Up Food Bucks program and look forward to a brighter future for Oregonians.