



Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health, & Recovery
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

January 29, 2021

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network in strong support of SB 440 and SB 555. I urge your support as well.

SB 440 and SB 555 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 Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network supports efforts to incorporate healthy, local food into school meals. Farm to school programs help to bring healthy Oregon foods to children in schools. Double Up Food Bucks helps to bring healthy Oregon foods to children and families for consumption at home. We need both—healthy, Oregon-grown foods in school meals and at home. These programs provide access to healthy local foods and support Oregon's farmers! A win-win! And these programs are needed now more than ever. Double Up Food Bucks is a critical resource for Oregonians suffering from food insecurity exacerbated by the economic crisis, and will support Oregon's farmers, to help them recover after losing other markets, such as restaurant sales, due to COVID-19.

Please support SB 440 and SB 555, for the health of Oregon's children, families, farmers and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Kemple". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Kemple, Director, Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network