

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Abigail Blinn. I am a resident and working for a farmer support organization in Ashland, OR. 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.

This program is important to me because I am a SNAP beneficiary and I work for an organization that addresses access to fresh, local foods in the Rogue Valley. DUFB's allows families to buy the seasonal produce they know and love, or give them the chance to try some things they haven't used before! This can lead to more familiarity with local items and contribute to better health outcomes. These funds also go to local farmers, working to create a more secure and reliable food system in the region.

With the pandemic and fire season hitting families and farmers, there has been an increased need for food products close to home. DUFB helps those who want local food be able to buy local food and support the regional economy.

Two markets in the Rogue Valley were able to offer DUFB, in both Josephine and Jackson counties using the 2019 funding. When I attended the market, I felt I could afford to buy fresh produce and still have enough money for the other items I needed. It gave that little boost in the grocery bill. With food pantries and community meals being risky to attend at this time, it was really important to have a way I could access healthy food during the pandemic and during fire season here in Southern Oregon.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Abigail Blinn, Ashland, OR