

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Geoffrey Van. I am a resident of Portland, Oregon. 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 as a resident, farmer, and non profit worker for Oregonian farms and food systems. I have sold food at farmers markets for 5 years and know first hand how much Double Up Food Bucks and SNAP programs help farmers make more money and bring more healthful food to hungry families. Public health epidemics disproportionately affect low income families and rural Oregon is in desperate need of economic development. This program offers win wins across multiple sectors. COVID19 has forced people out of work, to stay home, to struggle to put food on tables. These programs address ALL of the above in meaningful ways.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Van, Portland, OR