

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alisa Ocean. I am a farmers market manager in Cave Junction. I am writing to request your support for **SB 440 & 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.

The Double Up Food Bucks program is so important to me because I see how beneficial increasing people's access to fresh local produce has been for our market. There is a high number of food insecure individuals in the Illinois Valley who rely on this program to increase the amount of healthy local produce that their families can consume each week. I believe this program in turn increases overall health in our community. I've had customers tell me they spend less money on unhealthy snack foods because they can come to market and "double their bucks", bringing home fresh fruits and vegetables instead.

This program also helps the small farmers in our community, increasing their sales and their ability to continue farming. Keeping foods local, and supporting these farmers has a far reaching impact. The farmers in turn spend their money locally and help our rural economic development. Local farms also lessen the impact from fossil fuels shipping food to far away locations, which is healthier for the planet.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Alisa Ocean
O'Brien Oregon