

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Land. I am a farmers market manager in Oregon City. 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.

This program is important to me because I see first hand the impact the additional benefit Double Up Food Bucks has on my customers and farmers. This program not only allows farmers to increase their revenue, it directly affects our customer's access to locally grown produce. Thanks to this program our recipients can include a larger supply of healthy foods in their shopping trip which increases the variety of nutrition in their homes.

Our farmers market SNAP sales increased dramatically over the past year. This directly correlates with our goal of local food access and assisting in filling hunger gaps within our community. The Double Up Food Bucks program keeps dollars local and aids in spurring the economic development of our rural Oregon farms. It allows our farmers to grow larger crops in order to meet the demand of our customer's increased ability to source healthy food.

This year of COVID plus the wildfires within our community took a drastic toll on our residents. The loss of homes, evacuations, job losses and illness have threatened their livelihood and the additional loss of such a worthy program would be another hit to our families trying to survive.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Jessica Land, Oregon City