

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Natasha Tandler. I am a Farmers Market Manager in Portland at the South Waterfront Farmers Market. 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 it benefits our customers, our vendors, and our farmers market as a whole. Because of the 2019 state funding, our farmers market was able to offer DUFB for the first time in 2020.

By offering DUFB in 2020, our market saw a significant increase in the number of new customers, as many customers were drawn to attend because of this food incentive program. Due to the economic impacts of COVID-19 that affected several of our shoppers, many DUFB customers were incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to fill up their shopping bags with more fresh vegetables and fruits to take home. Our farmers also were thankful to have the opportunity to make sales and connections with new customers, especially during this season of uncertainty due to COVID-19. Overall, the DUFB program played an instrumental part of our market's overall success during this past unprecedented season.

As such, we fully support SB 440 & 555.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Natasha Tandler
Portland, Oregon



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