

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eden Olsen. I am a farmer in Monmouth, Oregon. 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 puts money in farmers' pockets and increases access to nutritional, sustainable and delicious food for low-income community members. I have participated in our local farmers' market SNAP incentive program for the last three years and I have seen an increase in sales directly related to the program. I have also been a recipient of SNAP incentive dollars when I was struggling to start my farm business and it helped me stay afloat.

This program is particularly important during the COVID-19 outbreak. It was clear that the funding was needed during 2019 when many of our local community members signed up for SNAP benefits and utilized the Double Up Food Bucks opportunity. I saw a dramatic increase in sales last season, much of which was due to the SNAP program offered at our farmers' market.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Eden Olsen

Lucky Crow Farm

Monmouth, Oregon

