



Friends of Family Farmers ♦ PO Box 665 Waltherville, OR 97489

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February 1, 2021

Testimony Supporting SB 7440 & SB 555
Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

Friends of Family Farmers represents small and mid-sized family farmers across Oregon. We work to build strong local and regional food systems and to ensure that family-scale agriculture remains viable in our state today and into the future.

We are writing today to request your support of SB 440 and SB 555. SB 555 and SB 440 support the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks, 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.

Double of Food Bucks is an incentive program that helps low-income Oregonians eligible for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) to access fruits and vegetables directly from local farmers. This program is a win-win, providing increased access to healthy food for low-income Oregonians, while supporting family farms in the state.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, industrial agriculture channels failed, and we collectively learned the importance of a resilient regional food system. Over the last year, many of Oregon's small farmers rose to the occasion to feed communities across the state during a time of crisis and ensuring that hungry families still have access to this healthy, locally grown food is critical as Oregon recovers from the Covid-19 economic downturn. Programs like these will also help to spur economic development in rural areas, which is needed now more than ever.

On a personal note, I formerly served on the Board of Directors at People's Food Co-op and regularly volunteered at the Co-op's weekly farmers market where I helped process Double Up Food Bucks matches for market goers. Through this experience, I saw firsthand the benefit and positive impact the Double Up Food Bucks program has on a community that matters to me, and I would like to see it continue.

We urge your support for SB 440 and SB 555.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy M Wong

Amy Wong - Policy Director - Friends of Family Farmers