

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Griffen. I am a Baker City Farmers Market board member in Baker 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 our farmers market because it's a win-win for our farmers and improving food access in our small rural community. Hunger is a serious issue in our county, where hunger statistics are higher than the state averages, according to the Oregon Hunger Task Force. More than one in five children in Baker County are food insecure. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this issue and has hit our community hard. The Double Up Food Bucks Program is a vital tool to make sure that our lower income neighbors have access to fresh, healthy food.

This program also benefits our farmers and helps spur economic development in rural Oregon. In 2019, farmers, food entrepreneurs and crafters at Baker City Farmers Market generated over \$50,000 in sales—this is a large economic impact for our small community, and we hope to continue to grow. SNAP sales are an important component of our overall sales, and the Double Up Food Bucks program provides an excellent incentive that draws customers to our farmers market and increases overall sales. Please support the expansion of this program—our farmers and community members need support in these difficult times.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Jessica Griffen, Baker City Farmers Market Board, Baker City