

Submitter: Annie Tronco  
On Behalf Of: Hillsboro Farmers Market  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

Dear Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Annie Tronco, and I serve on the Board of Directors of the Hillsboro Farmers Markets in Hillsboro. I am writing to urgently request your support for the Double Up Food Bucks program within the Department of Human Services agency budget (SB 5526).

Our organization supports three seasonal weekly markets from April through October in multiple Hillsboro locations. Our Markets have been connecting food producers and consumers for more than 40 years, delivering fresh food to the Hillsboro Community and strengthening ties in our local food economy. We have stepped up to meet the increasing need for Double Up Food Bucks since the hardships of recession, COVID, and inflation have impacted our local community. We are very grateful partners in this deeply meaningful community program.

The Self Sufficiency portion of SB5526 supports ongoing funding 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. As a public education employee and community organizer, I am deeply familiar with ongoing and growing needs for nutritious and culturally aligned food in our community. Our Markets empower people to buy fresh and local food while mitigating food insecurity -- a need we can only expect to grow in the current political climate of job/market insecurity and cuts to social services. Double Up Food Bucks are an essential component to help our community address these challenges.

Our board and staff are committed to supporting amazing local farmers and making sure that families in our community do not miss out on essential, easily accessed, and locally grown food. Our markets are destination spaces in the heart of our community, bringing not only food nutrition, but also connection to arts and culture and to each other.

I ask you to fully fund the Double Up Food Bucks program within the Department of Human Services agency budget (SB 5526) before the Oregon Legislature adjourns.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Annie Tronco  
Board Member  
Hillsboro Farmers' Markets  
Hillsboro, Oregon