



Friends of Family Farmers ♦ PO Box 751 ♦ Junction City, OR 97448

503-581-7124 ♦ [www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org](http://www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org)

Co-chairs Campos and Valderrama, and members of the joint Committee on Ways and Means, Human Services subcommittee:

My name is Alice Morrison and I am pleased to be submitting testimony in support of the inclusion of the Double Up Food Buck Program at its continuing service level in the Oregon Department of Human Services budget (HB 5526) on behalf of Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF).

FoFF is a statewide nonprofit with over 1,600 farmers active in its programs. The farmers and ranchers we work with are more diversified in their products, tend to be smaller, and more focused on direct to consumer markets than the average farmer in Oregon. This means that they are direct beneficiaries of the Double Up Food Bucks program. When you put more money into the pockets of the community focused farmers of Oregon it is good for everyone.

Obviously, this program benefits farmers. With more available resources to be used on fresh fruits and vegetables, and the emphasis on farmers markets and CSAs that the program has had up to this point, this is incentivizing more Oregonians to seek out their local food producers. This makes local food more accessible to folks using SNAP, helps them build relationships with their producers and their food, and puts additional dollars into the pockets of Oregon's farmers. This bill will help this program reach more farm direct outlets like farmstands and provide crucial access to locally grown fruits and vegetables to more Oregonians across the state. Oregon grown, local food is for everyone. Double Up Food Bucks makes this more possible.

When farmers take home more money, the rural communities of Oregon benefit. Especially when those farmers are focused on direct to consumer sales and feeding their immediate community. According to a study conducted by OSU in Central Oregon<sup>1</sup>; the economic multiplier of these types of farms (those selling at farmers markets, farmstands or directly to their local grocery store) is higher than non-local agriculture (1.74 vs 1.36), more money stays in the community from local food (\$0.76 of every \$1) than from imported food (\$0.28 for every \$1), and local farms create more jobs (26 jobs per \$1M in sales) compared to commodity farming (12 jobs per \$1M in sales). This means that every dollar we put into Double Up Food Bucks will give a better return for the rural communities where our farmers live and work.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/economic-impact-local-food-producers-central-oregon>



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FoFF prides itself on being an organization by and for the farmers of Oregon, so now I'd like to share a little about what this program means to me as a former farmer. From 2017-2023 I sold produce at farmers markets from the farm I worked on and later the farm I ran. I prioritized markets that accepted SNAP and participated in the Double Up Food Bucks program. I made connections with shoppers who told me they came to the market for the first time only because they heard about the SNAP match and wanted to stretch their budget further while supporting farmers and getting some nutritious, delicious food. Some of these folks told me they never saw the farmers market as a space for them before hearing about Double Up Food Bucks. This program brings new people into the local food system and helps folks connect to their food. I have witnessed it first hand.

In addition to everything listed here and the ongoing success of this program, we also need to invest in programs like this to make our communities more resilient. With uncertainty in global supply chains, Double Up Food Bucks and other programs focused on uplifting and opening up local food production to new customers help us make sure that Oregonians maintain access to nutritious and delicious foods regardless of outside pressure. No matter which way the winds blow on the federal stage or in the global trade markets, Oregon has the agricultural potential to feed our people. We need to prioritize programs like Double Up Food Bucks which help local farms feed more people within our state.

I urge the committee to support the inclusion of the Double Up Food Buck Program at its continuing service level in the Oregon Department of Human Services budget (HB 5526). It is good for farmers, good for SNAP recipients, and good for Oregon's rural economies.

Thank you,

Alice Morrison  
Co-Executive Director  
Friends of Family Farmers