

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

My name is Kateri Morton. I am a farmer's market volunteer and Board member in Portland. I am writing to request your support for the Double Up Food Bucks program within the Department of Human Services agency budget (**SB 5526**).

The Self Sufficiency portion of SB5526 supports continuation 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.

I first began volunteering with farmer's markets in 2017, and since then I've seen hundreds of people use Double Up Food Bucks to stretch their SNAP dollars further, access healthy locally grown food, and sustain their families. For eight years, I've heard market shoppers describe DUFB as "a blessing," "a literal life-saver," "this program makes me feel like I belong here [at the market]," "I could never buy this many vegetables at the grocery store," and many other comments that directly illustrate the power and importance of DUFB. I did not know about SNAP during a time in my life when I needed it, but I can confidently say it would have changed my life to have access not only to SNAP but to the additional support of DUFB. My own experience with food insecurity has made me passionate about sharing the benefits of DUFB with community members.

The combined effects of rising food costs and food insecurity are easy to see in Portland. Many people visibly struggle to sustain themselves as the cost of living grows higher and higher. Several of our small farmers, as well as our shoppers, use SNAP and DUFB. The Double Up Food Bucks program is a key piece in supporting small agriculture and making their product available to people who may otherwise not be able to afford balanced, nutritious, culturally appropriate, or locally-grown produce.

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 the consideration and for your service.

Kateri Morton
Portland, OR