

Submitter: Emily Hoard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

March 28, 2025

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

My name is Emily Hoard. I am the marketing director at Astoria Co-op, the local community-owned grocery store in Astoria. 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 the continuation of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible produce at participating farmers markets, farm share programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on fruits and vegetables, up to \$20 per day.

This program is important to me because it makes healthy, local and organic food accessible to low-income families who are not able to afford as much of it otherwise. It also supports local farmers to sell more produce, keeping more money in our local economy, spurring economic development in this rural part of the state.

Two other local organizations, the North Coast Food Web and the Astoria Sunday Market, offer Double Up as well. Together, we are able to extend this benefit to a wide customer base of people who rely on it and support even more local producers.

As rising food costs have impacted our community, this program is even more important. Double Up Food Bucks has created \$140,000 in extra EBT funds for our shoppers over the last three years. That's about \$32,000 in free fruits and veggies every year for our community members. One in eight Oregonians experiences food insecurity and this program makes a tangible difference to help those community members.

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.

Sincerely,
Emily Hoard

Astoria, Oregon