



Pacific NW CSA Coalition
PO Box 83534
Portland, OR 97283

February 2, 2021

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Holly Hutchason and I am the Executive Director of the Pacific NW CSA Coalition. We are headquartered in Portland and are comprised of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms throughout the state. I am here to request your support for **SB 440 & 555**.

Double Up Food Bucks has a tremendous impact on the affordability of healthy local food. With DUFBS, CSA members get up to \$200 of incentives when they purchase their weekly share with SNAP, stretching their food dollars even further with nutrient-dense food.

As a result of Double Up Food Bucks, the number of people purchasing CSA shares has surged. In years without DUFBS funding, our farmers typically sell 125 shares across the state. However, last year, with the incentives, our farmers sold 293 shares – an increase of 234%. As a reference, shares purchased without SNAP increased by 167%. CSA has clearly been in high demand due to the pandemic – but much more so because of the DUFBS program.

Double Up Food Bucks has also helped our farmers build thriving businesses. Prior to the funding, only 11 farms in our state offered CSA shares for purchase with SNAP. Last year, with the DUFBS incentives, 24 farms offered SNAP shares. This year we are seeing even greater expansion: 75% of our farms want to offer DUFBS. And almost all of those farms – 86% -- have been in production less than 5 years. Clearly, Double Up Food Bucks helps our young farmers grow resilient, sustainable businesses.

And the members love it, too! A member of Lil Starts Urban Farm says, “without DUFBS, getting a CSA from my local farm would not have been an option. DUFBS gives me access to beautiful, fresh, food, and allows me to spend money that stays within my community.” And Lori, a member of Organic Redneck Growers in Eugene, says, “It was amazing – I love being able to order the CSA and benefit from the farm's fresh produce, as well as supporting them! We could not have done it without the DUFBS. We very much appreciate it.”

Thank you for your consideration, your service, and your dedication in finding solutions for Oregon's hungry.

Holly Hutchason
Portland, OR