

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Miriam Latzer. I am the learning garden coordinator at Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus, and we run a small weekly farmers market on with the produce from our 3.5 acre garden. I am writing to request your support for **SB 440 & 555**.

SB 555 and SB 440 support the expansion 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.

This program is important to me because we accept SNAP at our farmers market on campus, in fact we are the only PCC location district-wide that is authorized to accept SNAP. Over 60% of our student body face food insecurity, and our ability to promote and de-stigmatize participation in SNAP is critical. Often the monthly amount of SNAP funds a college student is eligible to receive is paltry in comparison with their need. The Double Up Food Bucks program helps to remedy that gap.

Because our campus has been fully remote during the Covid-19 pandemic we have not been able to operate our campus farmers market. As a result, our garden was unable to take in the funding it usually receives. Participation in DUFB in the future will hopefully help the garden recover financially. However, I would like to add that I write to you today as a concerned citizen and not as a representative of the views of Portland Community College as an institution.

Thank you for the consideration, for your time and for your service.

Miriam Latzer

Portland, Oregon