

February 1, 2021

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kelly Streit. I am a resident of Tualatin and 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 receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

For low-income, underserved communities trying to survive during COVID-19, access to adequate, affordable, accessible, and culturally appropriate food has been increasingly challenging, as already tight food budgets have been squeezed even tighter. The OSU Policy Analysis Library, School of Public Policy estimated the food insecurity rate at 20% at the end of 2020, almost double the rate recorded for 2017-2019. As a Registered Dietitian, food security is an issue that is integrated into the nutrition and food resource management education that I deliver in a variety of settings, including farmers markets. I have witnessed firsthand the benefits associated with DUFB. DUFB draws SNAP shoppers (many for the first time) to farmers markets to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for their families. Local farmers share their farm stories, their preparation and storage tips, as well as their favorite recipes. Relationships are formed that draw shoppers back week after week to purchase more fruits and vegetables, including those that are “new” or unfamiliar to them. The revenue generated by DUFB supports the viability of local farmers and supports economic development in rural communities. A triple win!

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and for your service.

In Good Health,
Kelly Streit
Tualatin, OR