



Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Pastoria. I am a Farmers' Market Manager in Roseburg and Canyonville. 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 I see the families who are in need, and hear the stories from our customers who are struggling to afford real food. The disparity is real, and it's concerning, especially in rural Douglas county, where I live. There is a huge impact made through Double Up Food Bucks. The extra produce has a real and tangible impact on their health and happiness. The activity and interactions at the Farmers' Market allows the families to look, smell, and pick out fresh produce, which also gets them excited to eat it. The extra funds make their way to the farmers, who continue to grow super healthy, fresh, local, low environmental impact foods for the community. The farming families also build and nurture the economy by spreading those funds throughout the communities they live in by supporting other small, local businesses.

The Umpqua Valley Farmers Market saw more than 58% increase in SNAP use in 2020. That number is staggering. We added 4156 meals to local homes through the Double Up Food Bucks program. At the Canyonville Farmers Market, we saw a 288% increase in SNAP use. The need was tremendous in 2020, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and a horrific wildfire season. The struggle will continue for these folks because of the high poverty and unemployment rates in rural counties like mine (Douglas). I

implore you to continue to help those who are struggling with food insecurities in our state. A healthy body starts with what it consumes. These Double Up Food Bucks help provide highly nutritious produce, which has been proven to have a profound effect on the health of the body and mind. In turn, it reduces the need for other medical interventions, which could also be funded by the state. The funds are well spent on health and wellness. The impact is healthier families, thriving farmers, and an economically stable community.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service,

Amanda Pastoria

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