

My name is Kimmie Serrano. I am the owner of Red Apple Marketplace in Ontario, OR. I am writing to request your support for SB 440 and 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 because Malheur County is one of, if not the highest, demographic of individuals at or below poverty level in the state of Oregon. Any subsistence programs that can be made available to assist community members in obtaining good, fresh food for nourishment is very much needed. With that, we have worked very hard to be the community store serving those in need to the best of our abilities. The Double Up SNAP program would be another program that would further serve those in need throughout this community. As many are aware, Malheur County was also one of the hardest hit by COVID 19 and it's ongoing impact on our community has continued to put a strain on the local economy and the communities members ability to pay for food, housing, etc. Again, the Double Up program would provide much needed assistance during this difficult time. Although DUFB has not yet been implemented in our area, we are looking forward to working with the DUFB to bring this much needed program to our community. Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,  
K Serrano  
Ontario, OR