

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Audrey Zunkel deCoursey. I am a resident and farmers market consumer in Southeast Portland. I am writing to request your support for SB 440 and SB 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 it helps families boost their nutrition while supporting Oregon farmers. Especially during this pandemic, with food insecurity rising, we need to find ways to help each other out and this is a creative, compassionate solution. Every SNAP dollar spent at a farmers market can generate \$1.79 in local economic activity. Our 2019 DUFBO program leveraged a federal matching grant, the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, extending the reach of our state investment.

Beyond the economic benefits, this is a smart investment in public health. Years ago when I relied on food stamps, I counted every dollar, if not penny, I spent on groceries. A \$10 per visit match at a farmers market can go a long way.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.
Audrey Zunkel deCoursey, Portland