

Chair Williams and members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Springer and on top of being a farmer, I am also the president of the board of the Oregon Farmers Markets Association and a person who has benefited from SNAP. The Double Up Food Bucks program has impacted nearly every part of my life and I am writing to request your support for SB 440 & 555.

The expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program, has been met with huge success since it received state funding in 2019. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables- like those grown at my farm. Not only does this mean that more of my community members have access to healthy local foods, it means that small farmers, like me, make more money to support their work. Even in non-pandemic times, small farms are difficult to keep afloat and the pandemic has shown us just how important a local supply chain is when disaster hits. I am not the farm owner, and I can definitively say that the extra funds from the program have helped allow my employers to keep me on year-round and move me from hourly to a very fair salary. DUFB contributes greatly to our bottom line.

Double Up Food Bucks allowed our farm to feed our community in 2020 while still being able to pay our staff and keep things running through a pandemic. It helps cover the real cost of production while keeping our food accessible to those around us. Many farmers, myself included, have experienced food insecurity, especially in winter, and being able to buy groceries from your fellow farmers using SNAP and DUFB is an important part of our community impact. DUFB helps me shop within my values, support my fellow farmers, and stay fed and healthy throughout all seasons.

Because of my role with the Oregon Farmers Markets Association, I know that my experience as a farmer and a shopper is not unique. SNAP enrollments and Double up Food Bucks usage has skyrocketed since it was funded- even before the pandemic, but especially since. And with so many farms losing restaurant accounts, increased income at farmers markets has been truly essential in keeping small farms afloat. The Oregon Farmers Markets Association and our network of over 100 state-wide Farmers Markets, fully supports and stands behind SB 440 & 555.

It's a win for farms, a win for low-income shoppers, a win for our economy.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Anna Springer, Portland

Board President, Oregon Farmers Markets Association

Farm Manager, Lil Starts Farm