

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anne Carter. I am the general manager of a DUFB grocery partner in Medford. I am writing to request your support for **SB 555**.

SB 555 supports 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 many of our customers use SNAP benefits. The number of families relying on SNAP benefits increased in 2020 due to businesses shutting down or furloughing employees.

As a new DUFB grocery partner, we began to participate in the program in May 2020 and did not know how successful it would be. Our SNAP customers appreciated being able to afford more fresh produce. Some of the things we heard from customers:

“When I can’t get to the famers’ market, I know I can come here to buy produce using DUFB.”

“Now I shop at the Co-op regularly, because I can afford to buy more fresh produce here using DUFB.”

“My kids love all the fresh fruit I bring home from the Co-op.”

By the end of 2020, we had 298 households participating in the DUFB program. These households received an additional \$14,802.00 worth of produce just by participating in DUFB at Medford Food Co-op.

In season, Medford Food Co-op purchases fresh produce from about 30 local farmers. Increasing produce sales helps support these farmers.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Anne Carter
Medford, Oregon