

Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sue Johnson. I am a Board member for Hillsboro Farmers' Markets in Hillsboro. I am writing to request your support for the Double Up Food Bucks program within the Department of Human Services agency budget (**SB 5526**).

The Self Sufficiency portion of SB5526 supports the continuation 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 an integral part of our markets. I have been on the Board of Directors for 10 years. During my tenure we have seen a definite increase in the number of people experiencing food insecurity participating in this program.

Until DUFB funded our Match program, we relied heavily on sponsorships to fund it, which meant oftentimes due to lack of sponsors, we could not provide the program for the 6 months of our season. Having DUFB fully fund our program means that residents in & around Hillsboro that attend our markets can count on being able to get fresh produce/veggie plants every week. The added benefit is for our farmer vendors who plant additional produce based on the tokens/coupons they receive from our customers.

With DUFB's support we are able to utilize sponsorship monies to fund our educational programs, i.e. Market Sprouts for kids, teaching them about where our food comes from, growing their own plants, and shopping at the markets.

I have personally seen the lines for purchasing tokens grow each year at our market booth which confirms the need is great in our community. So, I ask you to fully fund the Double Up Food Bucks program within the Department of Human Services agency budget (SB 5526) before the Oregon Legislature adjourns. Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,
Sue Johnson
VP Board of Directors for Hillsboro Farmers' Markets
Hillsboro, Oregon