

My name is Jennifer Kliese and I am a staff person at the People's Food Co-op in Portland, Oregon. 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 continuation of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on produce 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.

Our store, People's Food Co-op, a consumer owned grocery store has participated in the Double Up Food Bucks program since 2021. Our first year of participation in the program, SNAP recipients that shopped in our stores redeemed a total of \$12,066.63 in fresh produce. Through word of mouth that number has increased exponentially. Last year redemptions on SNAP dollars spent on produce in the store were up to \$91,042.23 and we are on track this year to distribute well over \$100,000 in produce matching. This means that SNAP recipients alone will be creating over \$200,000 in produce sales for our little store this year. (We are slinging the produce as fast as we can!) Much of this produce is purchased directly from local organic farmers and from produce distributors working with regional farms in Oregon. This is money directly supporting our local and regional food systems and our local economy. (when you buy local it stays local)

At the Co-op, we serve over 500 individual households each month that participate in the Double Up Food Bucks Program. I cashier in our store, so I get to see the impact of this program firsthand. Easily 1 out of every 4 shoppers that comes through my line is using SNAP and Double Up and many are buying mostly produce.

Because of this program these families can expand their already stretched food budgets with nutritious fresh food. And with prices rising, these funds and this program are even more essential to the surviving and thriving of our friends, families, and neighbors that benefit from SNAP and Double Up. Please continue to financially support Double Up Food Bucks, because with Double Up, the benefits multiply for everyone.