



NORTH COAST FOOD WEB

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March 28th, 2025

Subject: Support for SB 5526 – Double Up Food Bucks Program

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

My name is Twila Pierson, and I serve as the Market and Food Access Program Manager at the North Coast Food Web, an Astoria based non profit working to cultivate a resilient and equitable food system by supporting producers and improving access to local food. I am writing to urge your support for the continuation of the Double Up Food Bucks program within the Department of Human Services agency budget (SB 5526).

SB 5526 includes funding to continue Double Up Food Bucks, a successful and impactful SNAP incentive program. At the North Coast Food Web, the program provides a 50% discount on fruits and vegetables at the time of purchase, up to \$20 per market day. This program supports increasing the amount of local produce on the tables of families in our community as well as keeping dollars in our local economy by directly supporting local farmers.

As someone who has personally relied on SNAP benefits myself as both a child and in my adulthood, I understand the impact of food insecurity. I did utilize the DUFb program when I moved to Oregon and it allowed me to stretch my food budget, choose more whole foods and purchase more produce which made a huge impact on my life.

This program not only helps folks who are struggling to make ends meet but also supports local farmers, putting more money back into our rural economy. Over the past three years, DUFb has provided nearly \$2,500 in additional SNAP funds at NCFW, helping families access locally grown produce while strengthening our local food system and putting dollars in the pockets of farmers. Our partners—Astoria Co-Op, Astoria Sunday Market, Clatskanie Food Hub, and Clatskanie Farmers Market—are also participating in the DUFb Program, further expanding the program's reach and supporting our local food economy.

With food prices rising and hunger increasing, the need for these programs is more urgent than ever. Oregon's food access issues are especially dire in our rural communities, where resources are limited. I strongly urge you to fully fund **Double Up Food Bucks** within **SB 5526** before the Oregon Legislature adjourns. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our communities.

Sincerely,
Twila Pierson

Astoria, Oregon