

To Co-Chair Senator Lieber, Co-Chair Representative Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Teri Anne Finnerty and I am the farmers market manager in Ontario. 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 the 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 receive a dollar to spend on Oregon grown fruits and vegetables.

This program is important to me because I see young families and seniors use this program to stretch their food budget and obtain locally raised fresh produce. It benefits these families with nutritious food which can contribute to improved health. It also helps support the local farmers which stimulates the local economy.

Increased food costs have an effect on everyone, especially for those on a limited budget, but the ability to increase the food budget through the DUFB program helps fill the gap. At the market, we have seen increased usage of DUFB over the past couple of years and those who have taken advantage of it are very thankful for that extra help.

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 so very much for your consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,

Teri Anne Finnerty
Ontario Saturday Market