

Submitter: Eliza Mason
On Behalf Of: Funding Double up food Bucks Program
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

My name is Eliza Mason. I am a small farmer in Monroe. 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 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 because it helps hungry families bring home more nutritious fruits and veggies, provides us with important income, and helps spur economic development in rural areas. This program is a big WIN-Win-WIN for everyone.

Last season our farm store offered DUFEB for the first time and I witnessed first hand how many families were extremely grateful and appreciative. Many rural areas like Monroe are food deserts, and as food prices rise, having access to fresh healthy food is extremely important. We are also extremely appreciative of the extra income this provides to the farm.

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 the consideration and for your service.

Eliza Mason
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Monroe, OR