

Submitter: Eden Olsen
On Behalf Of: Funding the 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 Eden Olsen. I am a farmer in Monmouth. 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.

Double Up Food Bucks Oregon is important to me because I am able to sell affordable produce to low-income community members, which helps my farm's bottom line and my community members' pocketbook. This program helps hungry families bring home more nutritious fruits and veggies, while helping farmers make more money. Furthermore, the program helps spur economic development in rural Oregon communities. This program has undoubtedly increased my profits and my neighbors' food access. I have been able to sell produce through this program at my farmers' markets, my farmstand, my CSA and my online store. Many of my community members are benefiting from this substantial discount and I am moving my produce into homes that need it.

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.

Eden Olsen
Monmouth, Oregon