

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

My name is Daniel Chevalier. I am the manager for Village Market, a grocery store located in North Portland. I am writing to request your support for the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) 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, including ours, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

This program is important to me because, as a result of our partnership, an increasing proportion of our produce offerings is grown in nearby counties, including last year, where 645 pounds of fresh produce was offered through the Market grown in our very own community Garden, a program which currently provides over 72 plots to our neighborhood families, including my own (and to 1,800 pounds of free produce to the community at large).

For us DUFB isn't just about keeping produce affordable to those of us at the highest risk of losing access to healthy food. It's also about lowering the overall cost of goods to make other groceries, such as milk, eggs, and baby formula more affordable to our customers.

Balancing the budget of a small market in an area where several, larger operations have recently closed their doors is a constant struggle. Rising food costs, and volatile pricing makes it even more important for us to retain access to fresh foods. Village Market sells neither tobacco, nor liquor, and we do not carry Lottery tickets. We are **exclusively** in the business of bringing healthy, affordable food to Oregon's most culturally and ethnically diverse neighborhood.

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.

Daniel Chevalier
Portland, Oregon