

April 16, 2025

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

For the record, my name is Lucie Gouin. I am a farmer in Scio, 30 miles east of Salem. The name of my farm is La Terra Vita. We accept SNAP and Double-Up Food Bucks as payment for our farm CSA.

Two years ago, I gave testimony for HB 2728 that DUFEB represents a win-win investment for Oregon. The program now supports over 600 SNAP households and 60 CSA farms, representing an average extra \$6,000 of income per year per farm. Because of DUFEB.

In the early years of establishing our farm, we benefited from the support of an amazing Salem resident. Her name was Carolee Eastman. She did something absolutely remarkable. Every Saturday, she would visit market just before vendors broke down. She would buy *all* the produce we had left! She did this at several other stalls. Then she and her husband would deliver the produce door-to-door around Salem to people they knew could use the extra food.

Until she passed away, Carolee helped countless families around Salem put nutritious food on their tables. At the same time, Carolee gave us hope every week that we would stay afloat and that our work was useful.

This is exactly what the DUFEB matching program does.

Today, in my testimony, I will go further and say it's a win-win-WIN investment: for SNAP beneficiaries, for farmers, and for the Oregon tax-payer.

Each SNAP/DUFEB dollar spent on a farm share goes further than its \$1 value. Over the course of weeks, CSA members acquire new health habits. Healthier people get sick less, good news for taxpayers. Also taxpayers get a lot of free admin work from me and my fellow farmers. We respond to emails and explain how the program works; We fill out the required paperwork in my spare time. We guide our members with recipes and encouragement. And, at the end of the year, we pay taxes back to Oregon on every SNAP/DUFEB dollar earned. So if you want to make a dollar stretch, this is a powerful way.

For families who need it, for Oregon farmers, I am asking you to channel your inner Carolee Eastman support the ongoing funding of Double-Up Food Bucks.

Thank you.