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February 5, 2014

## **Testimony in support of SB 1541 Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue**

Chair Burdick, members of the Committee:

On behalf of Friends of Family Farmers, Oregon's largest sustainable agriculture organization, I offer this testimony in support of SB 1541 to re-establish the tax credit for farmers donating crops to food banks and food pantries.

By encouraging Oregon farmers to donate crops and livestock that may not otherwise be cost-effective to donate, we believe that a crop donation tax credit will increase the amount of fresh and nutritious food available to Oregon families that rely on emergency food services to survive.

We support provisions in SB 1541 that increase the tax credit to 15% of the wholesale value of the donated crop or livestock, and to allow this credit to be carried forward for up to three years if not claimed. If anything, this percentage could be increased, and perhaps should be higher for organic producers and smaller farmers to further incentivize these farms to increase donations.

Our testimony today also offers support for SB 1541 from the Oregon Grows Partnership, a network of rural economic development, family farm, farmers' market and food security organizations that collectively represent over a quarter of a million Oregonians who are farmers, small business owners, rural residents and shoppers who buy directly from farmers or shop at farmers' markets.

Together, Friends of Family Farmers and the Oregon Grows Partnership believe that SB 1541 is an important and cost-effective investment in ensuring that Oregon farmers can assist in feeding hungry Oregonians.

Ivan Maluski  
Executive Director  
Friends of Family Farmers