

Oregon Hunger Task Force

Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

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To: House Revenue Committee

From: Patti Whitney-Wise, Executive Director

Re: SB 1541 – Crop Donation Tax Credit

Date: February 19, 2014

Position: Support

The Oregon Hunger Task Force supports SB 1541, which will extend the sunset date on the state tax credit for crops donated to Oregon's emergency food banks and sets the credit at 15% of the value of the wholesale market price for the quantity of the crops donated.

In order for all Oregonians to be healthy and to thrive, it is essential to have access to adequate and nutritious foods. Unfortunately, for many Oregonians, their income doesn't allow them to afford their basic expenses and still have money to buy food for their families. Nearly 800,000 individuals across the state, nearly a third of which are children, rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) to help them purchase food each month. Currently, SNAP benefits last about two and a half weeks into each month. When families run out of SNAP benefits they most often turn to emergency food pantries to help meet their food needs. This type of food emergency is happening for nearly 270,000 Oregonians each month. We ask your support to make more fresh foods available through Oregon's 19 regional food banks and the partner agencies across our state.

Farmers and producers in nearly every county generously give to Oregon's Regional Food Bank Network to ensure that people don't go hungry and that the food they produce doesn't go to waste. We support relieving a portion of the financial burden they incur through donating food by extending the sunset on the tax credit for crop donations.

SB 1541 will help both Oregonians at risk of hunger and the farmers that work hard to grow our food. On behalf of the Oregon Hunger Task Force, I respectfully ask for the committee's support for this bill.