



**FOOD**

**For Lane County**  
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From the Desk of  
**Rep. Phil Barnhart**

SB 1541 Floor Letter

Beverlee Hughes, Executive Director  
FOOD for Lane County

Thank you for the opportunity to endorse SB 1541, (Crop Donation Tax Credit). As the Executive Director of FOOD for Lane County, a regional food bank serving all of Lane County, I am keenly aware of hunger issues in our state. After the recession hit in 2008, the demand for emergency food skyrocketed throughout Oregon. Now, six years later, the demand has leveled off and plateaued, but plateaued at a very high level of need. All food banks are experiencing a supply and demand dilemma- emergency food is going out faster than it is coming into our warehouses.

The recently passed Farm Bill contains close to \$8.6 billion of cuts to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), better known as food stamps, over the next ten years. Only 15 states were impacted by this cut and Oregon is one of them. This SNAP cut, combined with the November decrease, adds up to a loss of approximately \$90 a month for a family of four. This decrease in federal food assistance will place a dramatically larger demand on the 20 food banks all across Oregon at a time when our food supply is already at its lowest levels in history.

I believe SB 1541 will assist the network of food banks in several ways:

- Crops that are currently plowed under may be harvested and donated to local food banks
- Farmers who already donate surplus crops will be partially compensated and incentivized to donate even more to help feed their neighbors in need
- Farmers who haven't previously donated will be encouraged to share their harvest
- Low income families will receive nutritious produce and grains to improve their health and well being

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to convey our support for SB 1541. We truly need the farmers in Oregon to help us feed our neighbors in need. This is a wonderful way to further enable us to work together to end hunger in our state.

Beverlee Hughes, Executive Director  
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FOOD for Lane County is an equal opportunity provider and a member of



and the Oregon Food Bank Network