

TESTIMONY FOR SB 241

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED BY KENDRA ALEXANDER

FEBRUARY 4TH, 2019

I would like to offer my support of SB 241 and the renewal and increase of the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit. My name is Kendra Alexander, Director of Food Resourcing and Warehouse Operations at Marion-Polk Food Share in Salem, OR. We are located in the heart of one of the most agriculturally rich and diverse areas in the state. In 2018, we received over 2.75 million pounds of produce from our local community with 500,000 pounds coming from growers and farmers across Marion and Polk Counties.

The Crop Donation Tax Credit is a tool we can use to offer our partners a monetary incentive for donating their crops instead of turning unharvested product into the ground or tossing unsold produce into the landfill or the compost. That means healthy, nutritious food is getting to those in our community who need it.

Though the current tax credit is at 15%, we often hear from potential farmer donors that it isn't enough to motivate them to donate. If the credit isn't sufficient to at least cover the cost of the labor to harvest, they simply aren't able to afford to donate. Increasing the tax credit to 30% will give our farming community partners an opportunity to support their local community while being able to support themselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kendra Alexander
Director of Food Resourcing and Warehouse Operations
Marion-Polk Food Share