

Testimony for SB 241
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Submitted by Molly Notarianni
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Farmers Market Fund supports SB 241 to renew and raise the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit. Farmers Market Fund believes everyone in our community should have access to healthy food and is dedicated to providing low-income, elderly and under-served populations greater access to fresh, locally grown foods.

1 in 7 Oregonians are food insecure, ranking Oregon the twelfth hungriest state in the country. The state also has more than 35,000 farms growing more than 225 commodities, but it is not always logistically easy for farmers to donate their excess crops.

While our signature program, Double Up Food Bucks, helps SNAP participants access more fruits and vegetables at their neighborhood farmers markets, some Oregonians face even greater need, such as those accessing emergency food resources. The Crop Donation Tax Credit increases the availability of Oregon-grown produce which can be distributed through the emergency food network to food insecure households, acting counter the public perception that it can be difficult to access fresh produce from food pantries. With the help of this tax credit, millions of pounds of Oregon apples, potatoes, onions, pears, cherries, cucumbers, watermelons, summer seasonal crops, root crops, and winter squash go those who need them most.

Renewing and increasing the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit makes it possible to increase the percentage of fresh produce available to hungry Oregonians, while supporting our state's family farmers.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Molly Notarianni
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