



## TESTIMONY

### Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

May 21, 2019

The above Oregon agricultural groups support SB 241 to renew and increase the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit. Oregon agriculture is diverse of growers who cultivate and care for over 250 different commodities, grown with a variety of production methods all over Oregon, and yet despite this abundance, one in seven Oregonians are fearful they will not have enough food for their next meal.

Oregon farmers and ranchers have long supported efforts to address hunger in Oregon. The tax credit currently allows farmers and ranchers to receive a tax credit of 15% of the wholesale value of a food crop they donate to a charitable organization. SB 241 increases this tax credit to 30% and incentivizes even more farmers and ranchers to donate a portion of their harvest to feed hungry Oregonians.

The tax credit has a multi-level benefit for farmers, hunger reduction, and public health the tax credit provides a small offset to the value of growing, packaging, and donation. The Oregon crop donation tax credit has facilitated donations of millions of pounds of watermelons, apples, wheat, root crops, summer seasonal crops, potatoes, onions, pears, cherries, cucumbers, winter squash and more.

Partner programs that benefit from this tax credit and the donations that ensue cover all of Oregon and include, but are not limited to, the Oregon Food Bank, Farmers Ending Hunger, Salem Harvest, Ronald McDonald House Charities and Bushels for Betsy.

Renewing and expanding the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit mean we can continue to increase the percentage of healthy fresh produce made available through food banks.

We ask the Committee to pass SB 241 to Tax Credit and Expenditures for continual consideration of this critical tax credit.