



Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of CAMPO, I am writing to express **support for Senate Bill 610**, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure all of our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

Hunger was a crisis in our communities well before the pandemic, and the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have fallen hardest on newly-arrived Oregonians. Immigrants, refugees and Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members, in particular, have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. Latin American and Pacific Islander Oregonians experienced hunger at twice the rate of white Oregonians pre-pandemic — and this gap has only widened as our communities continue to struggle with COVID's ongoing impact and the rising cost of living.

CAMPO works with people in the agricultural communities of Washington County and we regularly encounter people who are struggling to afford food and cannot access SNAP benefits. We are working to change agriculture to create good careers and food justice while contributing much of what we grow to local efforts to fight hunger and food insecurity. For our vision of a just food system to come to fruition, we need social programs that guarantee that no one goes hungry in our community

CAMPO knows that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. SB 610 will allow kids to do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This will be true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

This is why we urge your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Nichols".

Jesse Nichols
CAMPO Director & Farmer-Educator

