



NORTH COAST FOOD WEB

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: North Coast Food Web

SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jesse Jones, and I am the Executive Director of North Coast Food Web. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians, which would ensure that youth and elderly Oregonians—regardless of immigration status—have access to the food they need to remain healthy and sustain their families.

At North Coast Food Web, our mission is to cultivate a resilient and equitable food system by supporting producers and improving access to local food for everyone. This includes the most vulnerable populations in our community—immigrant communities, the elderly, and low-income residents. As an organization located in a rural area, we are all too familiar with the challenges of accessing food resources, and how extremely difficult it can be to obtain the food you need, especially for those who are already marginalized.

To help address this, we operate an online farmers market, which offers a limited quantity of free food boxes to those who are most in need. However, the demand for these food boxes, along with the demand for food resources more broadly, continues to grow. As a non-profit organization, we are doing our best to meet this growing need, but the truth is that it is simply not enough. The state must step in to help address food insecurity at a broader scale.

Though our free food box program does not require documentation of immigration status, we have seen firsthand that there are very limited food resources available to those within our immigrant communities. These are communities that often face additional barriers to accessing food, and they are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity.

Senate Bill 611 would be a crucial step in addressing these disparities. By ensuring that all Oregonians—regardless of their immigration status—have access to nutritious food, this bill would provide vital support for our immigrant communities, our elderly, and our rural neighbors. This legislation would make a real difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

Our organization believes that no one should have to go hungry, and we are proud to support any initiative that works to eliminate hunger and increase access to healthy food for all. I urge

you to support Senate Bill 611, as it represents a critical opportunity to feed hope and end hunger across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Jones', written in a cursive style.

Jesse Jones

Executive Director, North Coast Food Web