



NORTH COAST FOOD WEB

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Dear Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Twila Pierson, and I serve as the Market and Food Access Manager at the North Coast Food Web. I am writing to urge your support for SB 611, which will ensure that low-income youth and elder Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to thrive.

Oregon is facing a growing hunger crisis. One in six children in Oregon do not have enough to eat, and one-third more Oregonians are facing hunger compared to pre-pandemic levels. Despite paying taxes, thousands of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are excluded from food assistance due to their immigration status. These individuals are also twice as likely to experience poverty. I firmly believe that all people deserve access to food, regardless of immigration status.

SB 611 is crucial to addressing the disparities in food access and ensuring that the most vulnerable Oregonians can meet their basic nutritional needs. Expanding food access will not only help reduce hunger but will also have long-term benefits for public health, the economy, and community well-being.

As a community-based organization working to improve food security, we know firsthand how vital it is to address hunger in all communities—regardless of immigration status. I strongly urge you to support SB 611 and ensure that every Oregonian has access to the food they deserve.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Twila Pierson

Market and Food Access Manager

North Coast Food Web