

TO: Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue  
FROM: Matt Newell-Ching, Senior Manager of Public Policy  
RE: Support for SB 1507  
DATE: February 4, 2026

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Chair Broadman and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Food Bank's mission is "to eliminate hunger and its root causes... *because no one should be hungry.*" Sadly, Hunger in Oregon is on the rise. Visits to food pantries across the state are up by 50% since 2023. Due to H.R. 1, More than 342,500 Oregonians are expected to lose \$475 million per biennium in food assistance through SNAP.

We believe that hunger is a policy choice. In passing H.R. 1, Congress made the choice to take away food and health care from millions of Americans in service of tax breaks that disproportionately benefit high income earners and major corporations. Downstream, the combined impact of changes related to tax policy, SNAP, and Medicaid are now the primary drivers of Oregon's current budget deficit. While we cannot undo all the damage due to H.R. 1, **we have the power to avoid replicating these harmful choices here in Oregon.** SB 1507 is an important step toward ensuring Oregon chooses to move in a different direction.

### **SB 1507 Helps Working Families Afford Food and Housing by Increasing Oregon's EITC**

The EITC is a refundable tax credit that puts money directly into the pockets of low and moderate income families in ways that change lives. Families often report using the credit to purchase or repair a car, pay down debt, make a deposit and first month's rent, take classes, or start to build savings. SB 1507 raises Oregon's EITC by 5 percentage points. For a family of 3 earning \$25,000/year, that's an extra \$340. SB 1507 also preserves tax breaks for tipped and overtime wages which - while not as targeted as the EITC - benefits many low-income workers.

### **SB 1507 is a Step in the Right Direction to Continue Investing in our Communities**

Oregon Food Bank supports preserving Oregon's ability to invest in programs that address the root causes of hunger by strategically "disconnecting" from federal tax provisions that are driving Oregon's current budget gap. It's a step in the right direction to avoid painful budget cuts like a [\\$27 million cut to school meals that would lower the quality of school meals in Oregon, and a change that would make it harder for seniors to apply for SNAP.](#)

It would shock the conscience to close Oregon's budget gap by making cuts to things like school meals, SNAP, and health care before asking those who are doing well - and who are already receiving H.R. 1-related federal tax breaks - to pay their fair share. SB 1507 is a package of common-sense solutions that addresses Oregon's budget gap in a way that supports low-income workers, is fair for those with means, and we urge the legislature to enact it.

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