

House Committee on Revenue

February 19, 2026

RE: Support SB 1507

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Daniela Ortiz Mendez, I'm a law student at Willamette University and a Legislative Organizer with Next Up Action Fund, an organization dedicated to building political power with young people to create a more just and equitable Oregon.

The USDA's "Household Food Security in the United States" report from 2024 highlights how factors like income, employment, and household structure directly influence food insecurity¹. The report also notes that state-level characteristics such as **the State Earned Income Tax Credit and nutrition assistance programs** play a significant role in food insecurity². Today, Oregon families face difficult daily decisions due to continuous rising food costs, increased housing instability, and what seems like never-ending economic uncertainty. **The DOW being 50,000 means nothing to a child that's hungry during the school day.**

I feel it's important to describe how the USDA determines if food insecurity is happening to a household - they measure it by asking how many meals were skipped, if a

¹ https://ers.usda.gov/sites/default/files/_laserfiche/publications/113623/ERR-358.pdf?v=43760

² *ibid.*

household is worried that their food is running out, having their food actually run out, losing weight, or not eating for a whole day³. **In Oregon, an estimated 1 in 8 people are experiencing food insecurity⁴; it's worse for Oregonian children, as 1 in 6 are experiencing food insecurity⁵. At the same time, federal actions threaten funding for essential programs like SNAP, school meals, and the Oregon Health Plan.** These are programs that are foundational to preventing and reducing hunger in our state. According to a Population Forecast, 824,418 children lived in Oregon during 2024-25⁶; **if 1-in-6 children in Oregon are food insecure, that's roughly 137,403 children.** Oregon cannot afford to deepen the hardship by allowing budget shortfalls to result in cuts to the very services that keep families afloat. You can help protect over a hundred thousand Oregonians by supporting SB 1507, which takes important steps to protect working families and strengthen our state's revenue system, while protecting critical public services.

In particular, we strongly support expanding Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). **As the USDA report above notes⁷, a state's EITC levels directly impact the prevalence of food insecurity, making this credit one of the most effective**

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<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security>

4

<https://oregonhunger.org/2026/01/usda-food-security-report-shows-1-in-8-oregonians-face-hunger-as-snap-cuts-take-effect/>

⁵ <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2023/child/oregon/organization/oregon-food-bank>

⁶ <https://www.oregon.gov/das/oea/documents/appendixc.pdf>

⁷ https://ers.usda.gov/sites/default/files/_laserfiche/publications/113623/ERR-358.pdf?v=43760

anti-poverty tools available. This anti-poverty tool, Oregon’s Earned Income Tax Credit, reaches nearly a quarter million Oregonians each year - families rely on these funds to meet their basic needs⁸. As Daniel Hauser, the Deputy Director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy points out: “Combining the disconnects with the EITC increase would mean that the lowest-earning 60 percent of Oregonians who receive the EITC will be better off financially than without it - they will pay less in Oregon income taxes than they would without SB 1507”⁹.

By updating Oregon’s connection to the federal tax code, SB 1507 ensures that corporations and the ultra-wealthy contribute their fair share. This allows us to prioritize our state needs over big federal bills, in favor of making Oregon a genuinely beautiful place - one that maintains its investments in food access, healthcare, housing, and education for the next generation.

Next Up Action Fund urges your support of SB 1507, and asks the Oregon Legislature to be thoughtful about utilizing reserves to prevent cuts to basic services, and further analyzing how our state can disconnect from tax giveaways to the ultra-wealthy¹⁰.

Thank you for your consideration,

Daniela Ortiz Mendez

⁸ https://www.ocpp.org/2026/02/04/sb-1507-protect/#_edn2

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ <https://itep.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/OBBB-20250519-Oregon.png>