



TESTIMONY

SENATE ENVIORMENT AND NATURAL RESOUCES COMMITTEE

February 5, 2019

Oregon Farm Bureau Support for SB 241

Oregon Farm Bureau supports SB 241 to renew and increase the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit. As a reference, the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's most comprehensive general agricultural association, representing growers of over 225 different commodities and a variety of production methods in Oregon. OFB serves over 6,700 farm and ranch families in Oregon who make up our communities, implement a variety of growing practices and are part of Oregon's identity.

Farmers and ranchers across the state work diligently to maximize utility for the quality crops grown in Oregon. It is not uncommon during the harvest season that crops exceed market capacity. These variables can leave farmers and ranchers with quality food that go underused. The Crop Donation Tax Credit provides an opportunity for local growers to provide fresh food to Oregonians in need and recoup a portion of costs.

The tax credit has a multi-level benefit for farmers, hunger reduction, and public health the tax credit provides a small offset to the value of growing, packaging, and donation. The Oregon crop donation tax credit has facilitated donations of millions of pounds of watermelons, apples, root crops, summer seasonal crops, potatoes, onions, pears, cherries, cucumbers, winter squash and more.

Renewing and expanding the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit mean we can continue to increase the percentage of healthy fresh produce made available through food banks. Although many farmers and ranchers assume the hidden cost to give back to their communities, the renewal and expansion of the tax credit is a small offering to offset the expenses and capture new growers to fill the continual demand.

We ask for your support for SB 241 today. Thank you for your time and consideration. For more information, please contact Jonathan Sandau at sandau@oregonfb.org.