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Comments on HB 3038

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and members of the committee,

I write in support of HB3038 and offer assistance in completing the work outlined in this bill. As a Professor of Sociology at Oregon State University, with 20 years of experience studying food insecurity and the public programs designed to alleviate it, I affirm the need for this work. College-student food insecurity is not well understood but some of the possible ways to address it may be right before our eyes, especially with gaining students access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

I also confirm that Oregon State University faculty and graduate students are well positioned to assist with conducting the research outlined in the bill. The OSU School of Public Policy already has talented graduate students currently studying topics related to college student food insecurity. Our Oregon Policy Analysis Lab has provided useful research for government agencies and non-profit organizations, and has done so inexpensively and punctually.

I have collaborated with Western Oregon State University faculty on teaching and research projects related to these topics, so we would anticipate fruitful collaboration with their faculty and students. We at OSU can offer faculty and graduate student expertise, while volunteering some time toward the collection and analysis of this data, adding value to the funds allocated in the bill.

Respectfully,

Mark Edwards

Professor of Sociology

Oregon State University