



March 3, 2023

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), I would like to express our support for a critical **\$7.5 million investment** in emergency food purchasing as part of **House Bill 5045**.

In local communities throughout the state, our network is on the frontlines working to help families struggling due to the significant financial challenges that mounted during the pandemic, rising cost of living, and the recent expiration of SNAP Emergency Allocations. This program is essential for more than 720,000 Oregonians.

To ensure an adequate emergency food supply for Oregonians through the end of June 2023, we need help. We ask you to prioritize this investment that will allow the Oregon Food Bank to bridge the gap in food supply by purchasing, and distributing across Oregon, approximately 6,300,000 million pounds of food (or 5,229,000 meals) statewide.

In addition to the expiration of the Covid emergency funding, traditional sources of funding and food donations have also declined due to the pandemic:

- Donations from large-scale food producers have dropped by approximately 50% over the course of the pandemic, with no return to pre-pandemic donation levels in sight;
- Reductions in funding and supply chain disruptions have made critical federal programs unreliable, resulting in inconsistent federal food supplies reaching Oregon; and
- The rise in global food costs has weakened our ability to purchase food for distribution.

We ask that you to take urgent action and allocate \$7.5 million in the budget rebalance to help meet the rising need and prevent Oregon families from going hungry.

Sincerely,

Paul Rainey