



TO: Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
 FROM: Sarah McGregor, Feeding Umpqua Manager, United Community Action Network  
 RE: HB 5030  
 DATE: May 5, 2023

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah McGregor, Manager of Feeding Umpqua in Douglas County. Last month, our numbers soared with over **25,000 people** accessing emergency food. The number represents a **68% increase year-to-year**. The safety net the Oregon Food Bank Network of Regional Food Banks (The Network) provides is critical to keeping people fed and healthy, and provides a needed off-set to already stretched household budgets. No one should have to choose between paying rent and keeping their families fed.

The Network is requesting \$22M for one-time infrastructure investments into our regional food banks across the state. This request will help strengthen our statewide distribution network and support Oregonians facing hunger. Funds will allow us to meet the increased needs, while strengthening our statewide network to ensure food remains available to all who need it, for years to come.

Feeding Umpqua would use its portion of these funds to help much needed warehouse renovations: installing a floor scale, electric gates for the mezzanine, making needed repairs to our cracked floor, leaking roof, and damaged solar panels. Funds will also be used for programmatic food distribution operations to purchase a refrigerated box truck to deliver fresh foods and a backup generator for emergency response. Addressing these structural problems will help us better support our network of partner agencies across the county.

We are mindful as we make this request that food banking alone is not a permanent solution to hunger. Hunger is not just an empty stomach or an individual experience. We are encouraged that the legislature is also taking action to address the reasons why so many people seek emergency food.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. We urge you to support this important request.

Sincerely,

Sarah McGregor  
 Feeding Umpqua Program Manager

