

TO: Joint Subcommittee On Capital Construction
FROM: Kim Olson, Community Philanthropy Manager - Campaigns & Network
RE: HB 5030
DATE: May 5, 2023



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

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes. We pursue this goal in two key ways: we foster community connections to help people access nutritious food today, and we advocate to change policies that drive hunger and poverty.

I write today with a request for the 20 Regional Food Banks in Oregon - five are run by OFB, and fifteen are independent nonprofit organizations. Together we support 1,200+ partner agencies and food assistance sites. We're incredibly proud of this expansive, community-led effort that reaches Oregonians in rural, urban and suburban communities alike – distributing more than 44.4 million meals (53.3 million pounds) worth of food from the coast to the high desert.

Yet the last few years have strained our statewide infrastructure, much of which is 20-30 years old and is in need of significant repairs and updates to maintain distribution of nutritious, culturally-relevant foods.

The emergency food system was originally designed to handle large quantities of shelf-stable goods, dry and canned products – we need to update the way we work to prioritize partnerships with farmers and producers of the healthy, fresh, locally-grown and raised food that is abundant in the Pacific Northwest.

A one-time \$22 million investment in food distribution infrastructure will ensure greater capacity to accept, store and transport locally-sourced fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, protein and pantry staples. This request will be divided between all 20 Oregon Regional Food Banks, funding projects that will support the distribution of fresh nutritious foods to Oregonians who need it in every corner of our State.

Sincerely,

Kim Olson
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