

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
FROM: Oregon Food Bank
RE: Support for Marion Polk Food Share
DATE: January 21, 2025



Chair Sen. Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Sen. Linthicum, and Members of the Committee

The Oregon Food Bank strongly supports Marion Polk Food Share's request for \$6 million in funding to construct a new facility that will serve the community's needs for the next 30 years.

Marion Polk Food Share has been a valued member of the Oregon Food Bank Network of Regional Food Banks for more than 35 years. We collaborate closely to distribute nutritious food to individuals and families through a network of over 100 local partners, including food pantries and meal sites. This partnership ensures that essential resources reach those in need across Marion and Polk counties.

Marion Polk Food Share provides vital services that significantly impact low-income community members across our region. In 2023, they distributed a record-high 10 million pounds of food, providing \$14 million in relief to 18,000 households. The construction of a new regional food distribution warehouse and Meals on Wheels production kitchen will greatly expand their capacity to meet the increasing need for food assistance.

The Food Share is a highly trusted, reliable organization with an excellent track record of providing innovative, impactful services and stewarding private and public funds. Their programs, such as Home Delivery and Mobile Pantry initiatives, ensure fresh, nutritious food reaches neighbors who cannot access assistance at local pantries, addressing service gaps in rural and underserved areas.

We encourage you to fund this request, allowing Marion Polk Food Share to ensure that residents of Marion and Polk counties have access to food and other vital resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrea Williams (she, her, hers)
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