

Submitter: Chase Van Langen
On Behalf Of: Stacey Kraker
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services FROM: Hummingbird Wholesale
SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611 Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee, My name is Stacy Kraker, CEO at Hummingbird Wholesale. Hummingbird Wholesale is in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure Youth and Elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy. Hummingbird is an organic food manufacturer and wholesale distributor based in Eugene, Oregon. We specialize in working directly with regional farmers to source organic grains, legumes, nuts, seeds, dried fruit and bee products, as well as other pantry staples. We are committed to helping to develop and support a healthy, local food system for all members of our community. Not only is access to healthy food important for the health of individuals, providing access to healthy food supports a robust economy for both rural and urban areas. We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives. Providing state funds to improve SNAP benefits will not only positively impact those receiving food assistance, but also support local farmers and grocers, many of whom participate in the "Double Up Food Bucks" program, which matches dollar for dollar purchases of fruits and vegetables, which are often coming directly from Oregon farmers at markets, farm stands and in CSA boxes. Five states, including Washington and California, have state programs that improve SNAP eligibility for immigrants and refugees. Food for All is modeled after these programs and built with the expertise of Oregonians with lived experiences of hunger and our immigration system. So, there are working examples that this program can be successfully implemented. Oregon lawmakers can help end child hunger in Oregon and, in the process, support Oregon farmers and ranchers, thereby enriching rural economies. This bill is a key step to making that happen. This is why I am urging your YES vote on SB 611. Thank you, Stacy Kraker CEO Hummingbird Wholesale