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**Date:** March 12, 2025  
**Name:** Amber Hansen-Moore  
**Organization:** Yamhill Community Action Partnership  
**Location:** Yamhill County, Oregon

Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderamma, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Yamhill Community Action Partnership, we ask that you support increased funding for regional food programs to provide critical food assistance throughout the state. In local communities, we provide food security that serves as a lifeline to thousands of children, adults, and seniors facing food insecurity. As we have seen over the past few years, the need for food assistance has only increased, along with the cost of purchasing food. Recent federal reductions to food programs intensify the need we are seeing locally.

**One-third more Oregonians** are experiencing hunger now than before the pandemic. **Last year**, there were **2.5 million visits** to the 1,200 food assistance sites through the Oregon Food Network — a **31% increase** from the previous year. We are in the midst of an ongoing hunger crisis, and we have the opportunity to make meaningful change in this legislative session. In a survey among Oregon's **regional food programs**, a **gap of \$15 million** was identified to maintain existing services. In looking at it from a statewide perspective, the need intensifies.

In our community, we were serving 15,000 people monthly pre-pandemic. Last month, we fed 20,000. To sustain food assistance operations and partnerships with local pantries, meal sites and shelters in our community, we need \$965,000 during the next biennium.

With many of our neighbors one paycheck away from crisis, food banks are often the only place they can turn to for help. Food insecurity impacts Oregonians of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds, and it is a direct barrier to health, education, and productivity. The funding requested today will directly support food distribution, operational costs, and programs that target specific needs within our communities.

I urge you to recognize the vital work that food banks do and the critical role they play in sustaining the health and well-being of our communities. Increased funding is not just a response to a crisis; it is an investment in Oregon's future—a future where no one goes hungry. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amber Hansen-Moore  
Deputy Director