



March 14, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
FROM: Rogue Food Unites
SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611

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

Rogue Food Unites 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 stay healthy.

Rogue Food Unites (RFU) was founded in 2020 in response to the devastating impacts of the Labor Day Fires and the COVID-19 pandemic on Jackson County residents. Since September 2020, Rogue Food Unites has recirculated over \$30M through local restaurants and farms, ensuring that community members facing hardships can access fresh, locally sourced meals while helping sustain local and regional economies before, during, and after crisis.

We wish we could pack a big bag of produce for everybody who needs it, but know that **we cannot meet our community's hunger needs alone**. It is crucial that all people who are income-eligible for SNAP benefits have access to them, regardless of immigration status, so that when somebody shows up at the end of our Market after a long work day, we know that the small amount of food we're able to give them is not the only food they can get.

Every week, Rogue Food Unites offers high-quality meat, eggs, and organic produce to approximately 2,000 individuals around Jackson County at our No Cost, No Barrier Farmers' Markets. We provide our community with both comfort and nutrition, helping mitigate the negative health outcomes associated with limited access to nutritious food – support that is especially vital for people who are excluded from accessing traditional food resources due to immigration status.

In addition to providing fresh produce, our markets serve as a space for community organizations to reach individuals who could be eligible for their resources. Each week, our Farmers' Markets see more patrons than we can fully support. Making sure our patrons are connected with other resources, like SNAP, is critical to ensuring that they always have access to nutritious food.

When key state-wide resources such as SNAP are unavailable for so many of our neighbors who need them most, our communities suffer.



Rogue Food Unites wholeheartedly supports Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians, to ensure that every eligible Oregonian, regardless of immigration status, has ongoing access to the food they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber", with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Amber Ferguson
Executive Director