



Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 25th, 2025

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

SETA is a non-profit, public service organization dedicated to renters' rights and interests. We provide free community resources, including our free Tenant Hotline, and we directly serve about 240 renter households every month through combinations of several programs.

SETA supports SB 611, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure Youth and Elder Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

We cannot continue to address housing instability in isolation from food insecurity. Oregonians who are renters are six times more likely to experience hunger than Oregonians who are homeowners. More than 50 percent of Oregonian renters lack sufficient residual income to pay for both rent AND basic necessities, such as food and medicine. The financial assistance provided by SNAP not only mitigates housing costs but also improves the chances of achieving and maintaining economic stability.

Expanding SNAP access would be an efficient and effective way to strengthen housing stability in Oregon. There is substantial overlap between Oregonians who need SNAP and Oregonians who are renters. Among those who receive government assistance, about 75 percent are renters. In other words, improving access to SNAP would directly benefit renters. In fact, after just 6 months of starting SNAP, households are less likely to be evicted.

We hear from tenants every single day struggling to afford essential life needs - rent, clothing, transportation, and of course - food. Oregon lawmakers can help end hunger in Oregon. This bill is a key step to making that happen.

We urge you to join us in support of SB 611.



If you'd like to connect with me, please reach out to tmorris@springfieldeugenetenantassociation.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim".

Timothy Morris
Executive Director
Springfield Eugene Tenant Association