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On Behalf Of: Indivisible Forest Grove
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Thank you, Joint Committee of Ways and Means. I support Senate Bill 611, Food for All Oregonians.

For 5 decades as an MSW in Washington County, I've witnessed families contend with poverty, housing instability, "more month than money".

I'm retired now, and at 75, I volunteer with Centro Cultural's Free Mercado in Cornelius.

I see first-hand how Or. Food Bank provides food access to residents from many walks of life.

Through the doors of the Mercado pass elders with walkers. folks coming after work, families with little ones in tow, those who come to deliver food for neighbors with limited mobility.

Centro has seen a 25% increase in clients needing food, from Dec. to Jan 2025. Each month about 2000 people receive food at the Mercado, thanks to Or. Food Bank.

We as a community have filled bags for the past 4 years with groceries going out to 10 labor camps for the migrants who work in the fields of our beloved Oregon. 2500 farmworkers during the last agricultural season could make themselves dinner, thanks to Or. Food Bank.

I understand that the federal budget for the Or. Food Bank has been cut by \$6 million.

So many food pantries in churches, senior centers, schools, homeless shelters, libraries, parking lots and beyond are at risk without the needed funding, especially in rural and isolated areas of our state.

Please support Senate Bill 611, Food for all Oregonians, a needed health policy with impact offering crucial community support and resources.

Many thanks from Kristin Ludwig MSW, a member of Indivisible Forest Grove and a registered voter of District 15.