

OREGON HUNGER TASK FORCE

Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
From: Chris Baker, Oregon Hunger Task Force
RE: Support: Project Request for \$5 million for Meals on Wheels People
Date: February 12, 2026

Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chris Baker, and I am the Administrator of the [Oregon Hunger Task Force](#). Created by the Legislature in 1989, the Oregon Hunger Task Force (OHTF) is a legislatively mandated advisory body that brings together lawmakers, state agencies, advocates, service providers, and people with lived experience of hunger. The Task Force serves as a statewide resource to research hunger, coordinate across systems, and recommend policy solutions to reduce food insecurity in Oregon.

I write in strong support for the request for \$5 million in project support funding for Meals on Wheels People's new resilience facility.

Last summer, at the request of the Governor's Office, the OHTF produced the [Oregon Food Assistance System Report](#) to assess how H.R.1 cuts would affect food access functions statewide. That report found that Oregon's food "system" is decentralized, fragmented, and vulnerable to disruption. There have been multiple events that have disrupted Oregonian's ability to access food between 2020 and 2025 from wildfires and weather events to the recent SNAP benefit freeze and the Hunger Emergency Declaration. All of which further underscores the importance of building resilience into local food infrastructure *before* emergencies occur. We cannot talk about resilience in theory without investing in the physical and operational capacity that makes it real.

Meals on Wheels People provides essential services to our communities, particularly to Oregon's seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes and face heightened vulnerability during extreme weather and system disruptions. Their work is foundational to preventing hunger, isolation, and costly downstream health impacts.

Investing in this facility is a strategic, forward-looking decision that reflects lessons learned from recent emergencies and advances the Oregon Hunger Task Force's goal of a more resilient, equitable food system.

We urge you to support the \$5 million request.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Chris Baker
Administrator, Oregon Hunger Task Force
Legislative Strategist, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon