

Submitter: Leigh Ann Hoffhines
On Behalf Of: North County Food Bank
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5701

To The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction: I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of the request for funds for site improvements to build a new distribution facility for North County Food Bank in North Tillamook County. The food bank provides critical services for our neighbors facing food insecurity in Tillamook County.

The North County Food Bank has been serving our community from the same location for 33 years, and its continued presence in North Tillamook County is important to our community. The North County Food Bank lost its long-time home (a decommissioned hospital that is scheduled for demolition). When the food bank was notified it would need to find a new distribution site, they immediately started searching for a new home. It can be a challenge to find existing facilities here on the coast that can meet the food bank's requirements and be out of the tsunami zone, so they have purchased land to build a modest distribution facility that can meet their needs. They have completed major preliminary steps to get the project started and it is shovel ready.

Your allocation of funds will help bring critical infrastructure elements (water, sewer, electricity) to the site. The requested allocation accounts for only about 25% of the cost of the total project. The North County Food Bank has secured donations and grants to construct the rest of the project.

There is strong community support for the North County Food Bank. Many of our community members volunteer, participate in local food drives, grow garden-fresh produce to donate, and provide ongoing funding through monetary donations. The food bank is a model example of neighbors helping neighbors, and provides much-needed services here in North Tillamook County.

We look to you for your support of this important project. Thank you for your consideration of allocating funds for the North County Food Bank New Distribution Facility.