

Submitter: Judy Lindley
On Behalf Of: North county food bank
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5701
Topic:

I am writing in support of senator suzanne weber's request for funds for site improvements to build a new distribution facility for North County Food Bank (NCFB). The food bank is a critical piece of the safety net for our Tillamook County neighbors who face food insecurity. Our local food bank has been a consistent food distribution space for 33'years. Their continued presence is vital to our community.

The food bank was required to move from the decommissioned hospital that it had operated in since its beginning. It is difficult to find facilities here on the coast that meet the food bank's requirements and are out of the tsunami zone so they have purchased land to build a modest distribution facility. They have completed major steps to get the project started and it is shovel ready.

Many of us, myself included, donate time and funds, unload trucks, distribute food, work at Alder creek community garden to provide fresh produce. Still others participate in local food drives, sponsor or attend events and donate funds to support the food bank. We are neighbors helping neighbors in our community.

Your allocation of funds to bring critical infrastructure elements including water, sewer and electricity to the site will provide about 25 percent of funding necessary for the project. NCFB gas secured donations and grants for the balance for construction. I believe this is a reasonable investment of state dollars that will provide returns for decades to come for the people of Tillamook County. The site has room for expansion, and the utilities will support future needs.

Please allocate funds for the North County Food Bank New Distribution Facility project.

Thank you.