

February 11, 2026

Subject: North Tillamook County Food Bank Infrastructure

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

As a Tillamook County Commissioner, I am writing in support of the North County Food Bank (NCFB) New Distribution Facility Capital Project.

The North County Food Bank has provided essential services to north Tillamook County residents for over 30 years. When their previous distribution site in the old Wheeler hospital building became uninhabitable, NCFB was unable to find a suitable new location. They subsequently purchased land on which to build a 1200 square-foot distribution center. The organization is seeking funds for infrastructure for the site: water, sewer and electricity.

The project is shovel ready. The remainder of the construction costs will be funded by grants, donations and cash on hand.

NCFB has tremendous community support and substantial 'skin in the game.' The organization operates with a volunteer-driven model rooted in neighbors helping neighbors. The volunteer and financial contributions show the local community's commitment to addressing food insecurity.

The need is acute. Approximately 12.6 percent of Tillamook County residents experience overall food insecurity, with the child food insecurity rate rising to 18.5 percent. With Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and federal funding of food banks decreasing while food costs are rising, more people than ever are experiencing hunger in our community. I recently spoke with an NCFB volunteer who told me that in 2025 there were months when the number of individuals accessing food had doubled over the same month in 2024, many of whom were unique, first-time visitors.

The project meets 2026 legislative priorities to balance the budget while recognizing SNAP cuts and supporting vulnerable Oregonians. This investment will allow NCFB to continue providing services and maximizing dollars available for addressing food insecurity in our rural area.

I respectfully urge you to support this request. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Mary Faith Bell

Tillamook County Commissioner

