

February 11, 2026

Subject: North Tillamook County Food Bank Infrastructure SUPPORT

To: Members of the Oregon Legislature Ways and Means Capital Construction Sub-committee

As the President of the Manzanita City Council and founding member of the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay, I have watched the North County Food Bank grow to meet the increasing needs of our community for food security. They have met the challenges and exceeded expectations.

I am writing **in SUPPORT** of the North County Food Bank (NCFB) New Distribution Facility Capital Project. The NCFB has been an integral part of the North County community for over three decades.

When the Nehalem Bay Health District was forced to vacate the old hospital building in Wheeler (due to being uninhabitable), NCFB began searching for an alternative location for their distribution as they had been tenants of the building since 1993. The search for alternate space proved fruitless, leading NCFB purchased property to build a modest distribution site.

Partnerships with places such as the Lower Nehalem Community Trust's Aldercreek Community Garden, local farms and grocery stores, and the Oregon Food Bank provide much of the food distributed, with NCFB purchasing the rest to ensure a well-rounded package of groceries. In addition, they regularly conduct food drives with the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay and local businesses. A great example of community support is the Emergency Volunteer Corps annual collection of food. This last year our small rural community donated 1,822 lbs. of food and \$8,518 on one day! Each year the donations have increased!!

The NCFB has operated with local volunteer and financial support since the beginning, meeting the needs of my neighbors every week for 33 years. I see firsthand how important the Food Bank is—not only for those who rely on it, but for the overall health and resilience of North Tillamook County. Investing in core infrastructure that supports food access is a practical, long-term solution that provides a safety net, especially as food security becomes more unstable.

This request is focused and responsible. The funding sought is limited to essential utilities, an infrastructure investment that will serve the community for decades. I believe this project is the right solution for my neighbors.

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

Sincerely,
Linda Kozlowski
Manzanita OR 97130