



North County Recreation District

February 11, 2026

Subject: North Tillamook County Food Bank Infrastructure

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

Dear Members of the Committee,

The North County Recreation District (NCRD) is proud to submit this letter of support for Senator Weber's request to fund the North County Food Bank's (NCFB) site infrastructure improvements, specifically sewer, water, and electrical service for a new permanent food distribution facility. This investment will enable multigenerational return as community services and food security needs are strengthened in Tillamook County.

For years, NCRD has partnered closely with the North County Food Bank to support the health and well-being of our shared community. As a rural recreation and community center serving families from Nehalem, Manzanita, Wheeler, and surrounding areas, we see firsthand the growing challenges many households face; fixed incomes, seasonal employment, rising housing costs, and limited access to essential services. Food security is foundational to everything else we work toward, whether that is youth programming, senior services, aquatics, or community events.

The North County Food Bank currently distributes thousands of pounds of food monthly through a volunteer-driven model that maximizes efficiency and community engagement. Their work is not only compassionate but also operationally effective, leveraging partnerships and local support to stretch every dollar.

The Food Bank is truly part of the fabric of our community. We have collaborated on outreach efforts, shared information with families participating in our programs, and supported one another during times of heightened need including seasonal fluctuations and regional emergencies. When families come through our doors seeking recreation opportunities, they often also rely on the Food Bank to meet basic nutritional needs. Our missions are aligned: building a healthy, resilient North County.

Investment in core infrastructure for food access aligns directly with the state's priorities for rural health, emergency preparedness, and efficient capital deployment. With these improvements in place, construction of a ~1,200-square-foot distribution facility can proceed on time and on budget. The building and site are thoughtfully designed to allow room for future expansion and development of a broader community service hub ensuring this is not just a short-term solution, but a long-term asset for Tillamook County.

We view this project as a durable public investment with lasting benefits to the region. Reliable infrastructure is essential to sustaining critical services in rural communities, and this project represents a strategic and responsible use of capital funding.

We strongly encourage approval of this request and thank you for your continued leadership in supporting rural Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Justin Smith
Executive Director
North County Recreation District