

February 10, 2026

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

Re: North County Food Bank Infrastructure

On behalf of many citizens in need, I am pleased to express my strong support for the North County Food Bank's request for state capital funding to complete site infrastructure improvements—specifically sewer, water, and electrical service—on February 8, 2026, for a permanent food distribution facility in North Tillamook County.

North County Food Bank has served this region for more than 30 years and currently provides reliable food access to approximately 2,700 households annually. Rural food security is increasingly challenged by seasonal employment, limited transportation, rising housing costs, and aging infrastructure. Geographic isolation and limited grocery options make reliable, affordable food access more difficult for many rural households.

I am a pioneer in this area. My grandparents arrived in the 1920s to practice medicine, and my mother joined them in their medical practice. I was born and raised here. Back in the day, my schoolmates' parents were loggers, fishermen, and dairy farmers. The majority of those jobs are gone. Most local jobs are in the tourist industry, which largely involves seasonal work at minimum wages.

Although I am not directly associated with the North County Food Bank (NCFB), I support their work with an annual donation and also try to point people in the NCFB direction for their donations. I know more than one person, with a child or two, a full-time job, and need to use the NCFB from time to time to make ends meet. Many of our elderly can't live on their social security alone.

The new building for NCFB is a necessity. The requested funding is narrowly scoped and fiscally responsible. It is limited to essential site utilities and will fill the funding gap for a build-ready project. This project is shovel-ready and a priority for our community. I find this organization to have done their homework.

Investment in core infrastructure for food access aligns with the state's priorities for rural health, emergency preparedness, and efficient capital deployment. We view this project as a durable public investment with long-term benefit to the region.

I respectfully encourage approval of this request and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Patricia Rinehart
Manzanita, Oregon Resident