



**REP. CLIFF BENTZ
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 60**

**For Immediate Release
Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014
Contact: Rep. Cliff Bentz, 503-986-1460**

Rep. Cliff Bentz Remarks on Lost Opportunity to Feed Oregon's Hungry

Salem, OR--On the House floor today, Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) urged his legislative colleagues to do more to compensate and provide incentives to Oregon's farmers for crop donations.

In the past Oregon gave farmers a tax credit of 10 percent of the wholesale value of crops donated to the Oregon Food Bank. Senate Bill 1541 reinstates the crop donation tax credit at 15 percent of the wholesale value. Even with this increase, the tax credits fail to compensate farmers for the cost of packaging and delivering crops to food banks, let alone the cost of planting and harvesting the donated crop.

For a fraction of what the state spends on its human services budget, farmers could have been encouraged to provide produce to Oregon's hungry on a wholesale basis. For example, a 10 pound bag of potatoes costs about \$2.99 retail. The cost to the state in tax credits is about 12 cents. To access a graphic depicting the return on investment and the difference between the two approaches, [click here](#).

SB 1541 does provide a modest incentive to farmers to donate surplus crops to local food banks. However, in its current form, the bill will not go far enough to remove the cost barriers between the farmers who grow the food and those who need it.

"We could have done a lot more to alleviate the plight of Oregon's hungry," Rep. Bentz said. "This is truly a lost opportunity to pay what amounts to the cost to deliver healthy surplus produce to those who need it the most. There's a lot of good that could have been done that wasn't."

In order to view a video of Rep. Bentz's remarks on the House floor, [click here](#).