

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

451 S. First Ave., Suite 700, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Hillsboro Office

451 S. First Ave., Suite 700
Hillsboro, OR 97123

648-6646 – Administration

- Executive Director
- Children & Youth
- Resource Development

648-0829 – Client Services

- Information & Referral
- Intake & Assessment for
all WCCAO Services
- 1-800-533-5941
Special Transportation
- 640-8951 (part year)
Heating Assistance

Emergency Shelter Home

210 S.E. 12th
Hillsboro, OR 97123
648-0829

- Temporary Family Shelter

Aloha Center

20515 S.W. Blanton
Aloha, OR 97007

642-3236

- Tualatin Valley Food Center
- Christmas Clearing Bureau
- Weatherization
- Fair Housing
- Housing Advocacy
- Fiscal Department
P.O. Box 7069
Aloha, OR 97007

Neighborshare

12230 S.W. Main St.
Tigard, OR 97223

639-0495

- Information & Referral
- Intake & Assessment for
all WCCAO Services

Play It Again (Thrift Store)

4955 S.W. Hall Blvd.
Beaverton, OR 97005
644-8956

July 10, 1990

MEMO

TO: WCCAO Board of Directors & Staff

FROM: Jerralynn Ness, Executive Director
Val Donley, Hunger & Nutrition Director

SUBJECT: Reauthorization of Temporary Emergency
Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Attached is a summary from Oregon Food Bank on the status of TEFAP and what action is needed. We encourage you to review this summary and contact Senators Hatfield and Packwood as requested. The reauthorization and funding of TEFAP is critical to the continued existence of our food bank, Tualatin Valley Food Center. Your support is appreciated.

JN:ns
Attach.

OREGON FOOD BANK

A member of the Second Harvest national food bank network

URGENT

DATE: June 29, 1990
TO: Network Members
FROM: Winnie
RE: TEFAP Update

1. How It Stands Now -- In order to continue, TEFAP needs to be authorized and funded by both the Senate and the House. As of now, this is how it looks:

- a) House side: The Agriculture Committee moved the Farm Bill along to the full House, where it will need action. The Farm Bill (House version) recommends TEFAP at 175 M purchase money in year one (it is currently at 120 M), with 190 M the next year, and 220 M in years three and four.

Also on the House side, a budget resolution has been passed permitting TEFAP to be funded at 150 M in year one. This is less than recommended by the Agriculture Committee; however, the Agriculture Committee's recommendation came after the full House passed the budget resolution. Interpretation: the House Agriculture Committee feels the 150 M budget resolution amount is too low, and so may push to get Congress to increase it.

So, at this point the House side looks pretty good.

- b) Senate side: This is where we are having the big problems. The Senate Agriculture Committee reported out its version of the Farm Bill June 22nd. It contains no money for TEFAP, and no money for food stamps. So the Agriculture Committee has not recommended any funding for either of our concerns.

Also on the Senate side, a budget resolution has been passed that contains no money for TEFAP.

So the Senate side is the problem at this point.

2. What Happens Next -- As stated earlier, in order to continue TEFAP both the House and the Senate must agree to uniform terms for the program, and must appropriate the same amount of money. Right now what the House and the Senate are proposing do not agree with each other. The next step in the process is the formation of a Conference Committee to try to get a single version of the Farm Bill that both parts of Congress will agree to.
3. Where the Action Is -- The points of impact for us right now are the Conference Committee to be held on the Farm Bill, and the White House Budget Summit. Because we are having trouble on the Senate side, that is where we need to focus. This means that Hatfield remains key, because he is both a participant in the

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SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1990

Hunger in the Senate

Pacific Northwest senators should step forward to lead the Senate in facing up to a responsibility for emergency food for the hungry.

With Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Ore., playing a particularly helpful role, the House has taken action. Without Senate concurrence, however, the temporary emergency food assistance program is due to fold in September with nothing to take its place.

The modest program, which puts only \$120 million worth of foodstuffs in emergency supplies throughout the nation each year, was the congressional response to the elimination of farm surpluses. The draw-down of surpluses was a desirable achievement. In the meantime, though, the hungry had come to rely on these commodities. Without a replacement an untold number of needy face severe malnutrition or even starvation.

Congress ought to devise a permanent policy for emergency food. It should spread the responsibility over all of society and not just the farm community. Through food stamps, such a system exists for the chronically needy. Purchase of staples in the marketplace would do the same for emergency food.

Operations such as the Oregon

Food Bank, buttressed by such active supporters as the Northwest Food Processors Association and the Oregon Wheat Growers League, have held the line against hunger.

But a federal program is necessary for reliability. It helps to assure that basics are provided in emergency food boxes and soup kitchens. The donations that come to food banks then can be used as supplements.

Emergency food is needed not just for the rare occasion. Nearly one-fifth of the people of Oregon seek assistance in the course of a year.

Winifred Nazarko, director of the Oregon Food Bank, sees the need increasing because of upheaval in the timber industry. Employees accustomed to being self-sufficient may need help soon. Ironically, for many, food stamps will not be available simply because the vehicle they drive is worth more than \$4,500. Emergency supplies will be necessary to help them through rough times.

The surplus program may be phasing out. But food for the hungry should be factored into the nation's agricultural goals each year. A fair market price for emergency food is reasonable. Congress should make the program permanent. It is specifically the Senate's turn to act.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

LES AUCOIN
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON

June 8, 1990

Dear Jerralynn:

I want to tell you again how much I appreciated all the work you did to make the hearing such a success.

Because of your willingness to commit time and staff resources to the hearing, we were able to demonstrate to the Select Committee the pressing needs of people in even our most affluent communities.

I'd also like to thank you for the excellent briefing you provided on Washington County's family shelter. The people of Washington County are awfully lucky to have you on their side, Jerralynn!

I look forward to working with you again in the future on hunger as well as other social service issues.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

LES AUCOIN
Member of Congress

Ms. Jerralynn Ness
Washington County Community
Action Organization
451 South First Street
Hillsboro, OR 97123

*PS: I'll keep you posted
on LIFE and
Washington groups!*



Larry D. Cole
Mayor

May 30, 1990

Representative Les AuCoin
Representative Tony Hall, Chairman
Select Committee on Hunger
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative AuCoin and Chairman Hall:

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to present testimony to the Select Committee on Hunger in your effort to learn more about "The Persistence of Hunger in Prosperous Communities."

As the Mayor of Beaverton and Chairman of the Board for the Washington County Community Action Organization, I have been in a unique position to experience "both sides" of Washington County. The City of Beaverton, where you are convening your hearing, has a population of 46,000. We are located at the east side of Washington County, adjacent to the City of Portland. We are a blend of urban vitality with peaceful suburban communities and rural pockets which remind us of our agricultural roots.

The City of Beaverton is a microcosm of the paradox of wealth and poverty in Washington County. Our residents are among the wealthiest in this county and yet we have over 5,500 people living in poverty.

Beaverton's per capita income exceeds the state and national per capita incomes, as does our median income. Our unemployment rate is below the state and national averages. We are enjoying tremendous growth in the form of increased jobs, businesses and housing developments, and yet, in spite of the bright outlook, last year over 9,900 emergency and supplemental food assistance requests from Beaverton residents were met by the Tualatin Valley Food Center, the county food bank network. In addition, 98 Beaverton residents became homeless while over 4,700 emergency basic needs requests from families in economic crisis were met by our community action agency.

Yes, hunger and poverty can and do persist in affluent communities across this nation. Families, children, and the elderly are the hardest hit groups, and most of these families are working.

The majority of our employers require entry level jobs in order to meet their bottom lines. These jobs are needed by our families and yet the pay is inadequate for the cost of housing, transportation, child care and health care. Families are forced to locate out of the area, wherever they can find affordable housing, and then they are confronted with an inadequate public transportation system.

Representative Les AuCoin, and
Representative Tony Hall
May 30, 1990
Page 2

Homelessness is the most visible aspect of the affordable housing crisis. Hunger is a result of poverty and a family's effort to prioritize rent payments in order to keep their housing. Hunger and homelessness among working families is a disgrace and a problem I believe is well within our means to solve. The cornerstone of the solution is to assure that communities have an adequate mix of housing stock that is affordable to all income levels.

Regrettably, the City of Beaverton has fewer resources today to earmark for social services than it did a few years ago when federal revenue sharing was still in effect. A portion of our federal revenue sharing allocation was set aside for social service agencies. With the loss of revenue sharing, the City has had to scale back its support for community services aimed at low-income persons.

The federal government is needed as a partner with local governments and communities in order to solve problems of poverty. We need your financial support to assure that public transportation is adequate and accessible. We need you to encourage the preservation of our existing housing stock for low income tenants and first time home buyers. This encouragement can come in the form of financial support as well as innovations and incentives that will assist and facilitate cities' efforts to preserve existing housing. Financial support is needed in the form of block grants rather than categorical grants which encourage local communities to develop cost-effective, creative solutions to their problems.

Hunger will be eradicated when we develop solutions to poverty. Families living on low incomes do not need to be "poor," or unable to meet their basic needs. All families should have the opportunities, and with that the hope, to obtain a reasonable standard of living, free of hunger and homelessness. I appreciate your sincere concern and commitment to addressing this very serious problem. Your leadership will make America a better country for all people to live.

Sincerely,



Larry D. Cole
Mayor

IDC:ag