

2012 FARM BILL: PRESS RESET



Oregon was built with the hands of settlers and pioneers, immigrants and citizens, men and women, by individuals cooperating with each other, usually in community, with the help of neighbor and government. When neighbor was in need the community helped. When neighbor was hungry, the community made sure that he or she ate. Members of the community understood that their hard work was done in partnership with the grace and love God, and they had love to give, to their neighbor.

The Catholic Church gives priority to the dignity of each human person. It demands that the individual is empowered, has a voice and has a choice. These ingredients are essential to ensure the unique dignity we each possess. The Church also reminds us that we are social; our faith calls us to be in community.

In community, we are vigilant that our neighbors are not in need and never hungry.

Our state, our country and our faith embody the principles of individualism – the dignity and empowerment of the individual – while watching out for our neighbors. In our world, no one goes hungry.

One in five Oregonians are hungry. We are better than that. To eat they need food from their neighbors, from food pantries, and with food stamps (SNAP). A robust Farm Bill would include full funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which is how we have food pantries with shelves stocked with supplies.

A robust Farm Bill has a fully-funded food stamp program, a safety net we use to feed the hungry, food given out of necessity to provide necessities.

When Congress presents a choice between cutting four billion dollars from SNAP (Senate version) or 16 billion dollars (House version), America is having the wrong conversation. The discussion must be about funding SNAP so that no one is hungry.

Call or visit your Senators and Representatives and tell them to hit the reset button.

Oregonians have fed their neighbor since 1848.

Americans have fed their neighbor since 1607.

Catholics have fed their neighbor since 33.

2012 is the year to continue this tradition.



Office of Life, Justice, and Peace