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CHAIRMAN  
CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS



## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER  
DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

April 27, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Northwest Harvest in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Northwest Harvest, located at 911 S 3rd St. Yakima, WA 98901.

The funding would be used for The Northwest Harvest Yakima Distribution Center (NWH-DC) to address Washington's persistent food insecurity. Northwest Harvest (NWH) today distributes millions of pounds of food reaching more people than ever, yet 1 in 4 families are at risk of hunger in part due to heightened inequities following COVID-19. In response, the NWH-DC will enable us to distribute a critical mass of healthy food to wherever it's needed most.

The project relocates NWH's primary distribution center from Kent to the Yakima Valley. By centering operations in Washington's agricultural heartland, we quadruple the amount of fresh produce reaching families statewide. We strengthen existing relationships with Yakama Nation and WSDA; deepen collaborative work with Valley human services agencies; and expand farmer and orchardist partnerships. In addition, the NWH-DC will offer affordable and badly needed harvest season cold storage to the Valley's diverse small/midlevel farmers.

The NWH-DC includes a state-of-the-art distribution center and an onsite free grocery store. Both operations will involve significant effort from Yakima partnerships in fighting food insecurity. The free grocery store increases access to food in Yakima, a County with the State's highest poverty rate and free/reduced lunch eligibility. The distribution center increases equitable access statewide. Its novel design enables top efficiency, high-capacity, rapid turnaround operations, which radically increase the ability to provide more healthy food and reach into the most remote rural areas. The facility's total cost is \$36,375,800. NWH has raised 72% or \$20.8M.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Newhouse".

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress