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Help needy neighbors

Recent debates about Oregon's status as the nation's hungriest state may be rendered moot as the state's unemployment rate has hit 8.2 percent.

At Fish Emergency Service, we help feed and provide services for those slipping through the cracks of Oregon's recession. We have assisted 14,632 people in the last eight months alone. What is most jarring is that 30 percent of those coming through our doors are new to us.

Fish also provides basic supplies, warm clothes, housing assistance and referrals. These are Oregonians united by need and humbled by circumstance. Many are children who come with their parents, crying and fussing. When they see food, their eyes light up and they run up and grab a loaf of bread, a piece of fresh fruit or a can of food.

Let's not get bogged down in an exercise of counting trees while our fellow Oregonians are wandering through a very real forest of want. Whatever the numbers, we're going to have to work together to help our neighbors until our economy improves.

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