

Chris O'Brien

From: Emlyn Addison <noisyblocks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 2:10 PM
To: House Finance Committee; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.
Cc: Dana Siles; isaac@rifofoodcouncil.org
Subject: Please support HB7995: Tax Credit For Food Donation

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I strongly support Bill HB7995—"TAX CREDIT FOR FOOD DONATION".

I'm a writer and I recently wrote about the effect of tax credits on food donation in other states. I studied the data from eleven states. In almost every case, food donations increased after tax credits were enacted. The effect is unambiguous: tax incentives encourage food donation.

Read the article here:

<https://ecori.org/pass-the-potatoes-tax-incentives-could-help-fix-broken-food-system/>

We are coming to understand the severity of the problem of food insecurity in Rhode Island. When almost a third of households don't know where their next meal is coming from, we must pay attention to what is happening to our surplus food—and there's a lot of it.

Only 7.4% of our surplus food is being donated to food banks. The rest ends up as animal feed or in the landfill.

We've got it all wrong. But tax credits would incentivize more food donation.

And there are added benefits to diverting surplus food from RI landfills: It reduces damaging methane gas emissions and will extend the life of the Central Landfill (which is expected to reach capacity by 2040).

Here's what a tax credit does:

- It makes more food available to food-insecure households.
- It improves food equity by expanding accessibility to nutritious food options.
- It maximizes our tax dollars by extending the life of landfills.
- It promotes environmental preservation while improving public health outcomes.
- It gives local nonprofits the means to offer more programs and services.
- It boosts the local economy by supporting RI businesses.

Please join me in supporting HB7995 and help Rhode Island become a model for food security and zero waste.

Thank you for all that you do!

Emlyn Addison
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