



**Epic Renewal**  
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Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Tess Feigenbaum, I'm a Pawtucket resident, and I urge you to support HB5404, Tax Credit for Food Donation.

It is critical that we incentivize and reward food recovery efforts in our state to build a resilient and thriving food system that takes care of all of its community members.

Rhode Island's 2022 food insecurity rate was reported at 31%, 18.2% above the [national average](#). The [RI Community Food Bank](#) reports improvement in 2023 at 29%, however, households with children under 18 saw a jump to 38%.

Rhode Island can do better to take care of its residents and ensure no person goes hungry, while also extending the life of our landfills. This bill supports our community, our environments, and our businesses, by rewarding good behavior, and making that behavior easier. This bill is an all around win, solving a number of key issues in our food system.

Increasing food donation of both excess and non-excess food is critical to make Rhode Island 100% food secure with 0% food loss, aligning with the [White House National Strategy on Hunger, nutrition, and Health](#)'s goal to end hunger by 2030 and the [Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics](#) to "reduce greenhouse gas emissions; save households and businesses money; and build cleaner, healthier communities."

A TAX CREDIT FOR FOOD DONATION is a...

WIN – Propel food & nutrition security through repurposing unused food.

WIN – Improve health equity through increased access to wholesome foods.

WIN – Preserve the environment + better our health as a result.

WIN – Stretch tax dollars by extending the life of landfills.

WIN – Support Rhode Island businesses that donate their leftovers.

WIN – Assist nonprofits: more food donated = more dollars for programs.

Thank You,  
Tess Feigenbaum  
Pawtucket RI