



CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF
FOOD BANKS



FOODCYCLE



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL



SECOND HARVEST
of SILICON VALLEY



SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK
ORANGE COUNTY



SLO
FOOD
BANK



CENTRAL
CALIFORNIA
FOOD BANK



MOJAVE DESERT
& MOUNTAIN
RECYCLING
Integrated Waste Management
Joint Powers Authority



The Climate
Reality Project
LOS ANGELES CHAPTER



Fullwell



DR. BRONNER'S
ALL-ONE!



SoCal Chapter



CENTER FOR
ECOLITERACY



LUTHERAN OFFICE
of PUBLIC POLICY
- CALIFORNIA



LOAVES & FISHES
FAMILY KITCHEN



Sierra Orchards

Santa Cruz



WHITE PONY
EXPRESS
FOOD RECOVERY



Bayview
Senior Services
nextgen
california

THE JACOBS & CUSHMAN



FEEDING
SAN DIEGO

August 21, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SB 881 (McNerney): Income taxation: credits: voluntary contributions: food bank donations – SUPPORT

The California Association of Food Banks, Californians Against Waste, and over 50 anti-hunger, anti-waste, anti-poverty, environmental advocates, and agriculture organizations write in support of Senate Bill 881, to extend the sunset on the highly successful Farmer to Food Bank Tax Credit and the Emergency Food for Families Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund. Our organizations are committed to addressing food insecurity, reducing food waste, fighting climate change, and supporting farmers in our state, and we believe extending these programs is a critical step towards supporting those goals.

California is the top food-producing state in the nation, producing nearly half of the nation's vegetables and more than three-quarters of the nation's fruits and nuts. Despite our state's great productivity and prosperity, many Californians struggle to afford food and too much of the food our state produces goes to waste.

[1 out of every 5 Californian households and 1 out of every 4 Californian households with children](#) are considered food insecure and [California's poverty rate remains tied for the highest in the nation](#). At the same time, [over 6 million tons of food are wasted each year in California](#), much of which is still edible and nutritious. When food is sent to landfill, it decomposes and generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas that accelerates climate change. Programs that redirect surplus food to Californians in need are therefore not only anti-hunger policies, but also practical, cost-effective climate solutions with undeniable co-benefits.

Our state's challenges to ensure all Californians have access to basic needs like food and housing are being exacerbated by recent federal actions and the rising cost of essentials. Congress's passage of House Resolution 1 will result in the largest benefits cut in SNAP history – nearly 800,000 Californians are expected to lose their CalFresh

benefits as a result. While the United Ways of California found that, [over 12.4 million individuals living in working households in California did not have enough income to afford basic costs of living.](#)

Food banks are already serving over 6 million Californians a month across the state, before the implementation of H.R.1 – a notable increase from the 4.5 million they served during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. While the need continues to increase, food banks are also receiving less federal assistance through the USDA's Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides American-grown foods to food banks for distribution. Food Banks received over 40% less food in 2025 than the previous year.

Reducing food waste while meeting growing food assistance needs is a critical opportunity for California. By preventing edible food from being discarded and instead redirecting it to families in need, the state can address both environmental and social crises simultaneously. Promoting food donations is a proven strategy to reduce waste at the source, strengthen local food systems, and cut climate pollution.

With a greater need for food assistance than ever and the importance of reducing waste, the state needs to protect programs that are working. The farmer-to-food bank tax credit was first established in 2011 and provides farmers who donate California-grown and produced foods to food banks with a tax credit worth 15% of the market value of their donation. This helps farmers cover the cost of harvesting and donating highly nutritious foods, including fresh fruits, nuts, vegetables, starches, proteins, and more.

Often, the foods donated are high-quality but too imperfect for grocery stores. The tax credit makes it possible for farmers to harvest this food rather than having it go to waste in the field. On top of quality and waste reduction, this program enables food banks to access these foods at an extremely low cost compared to other food sources. Typically, these foods cost food banks an average of 15 cents per pound in transportation costs to procure.

The Emergency Food for Families Voluntary Tax Contribution fund is also essential to helping food banks serve their communities as need continues to rise. The fund allows Californians to choose to donate a portion of their tax refunds to food banks. Since 2015, Californians have donated over 6.2 million dollars to food banks through this program.

Extending the Farmer to Food Bank Tax Credit and the Emergency Food for Families fund supports California's farmers, reduces food waste, lowers methane emissions from landfills, and helps food banks fight hunger by providing them with high-quality, low-cost California-produced foods.

For these reasons, we urge the Governor to sign this bill into law to extend the sunset on these highly successful programs.

Sincerely,



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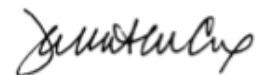
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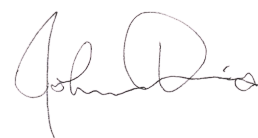
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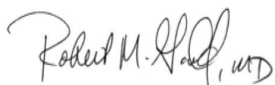
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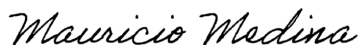
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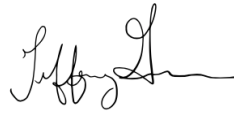


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