

The Feed the Community Act

The Feed the Community Act would create tax deductions for businesses that donate food storage equipment and food transportation vehicles to non-profit organizations whose primary mission is to fight hunger in their communities.

Issue Background:

Food banks and food pantries across America are experiencing increased demand for service, while simultaneously experiencing strained capacity to serve communities in need. A challenge the Los Angeles Food Bank raised is the need for equipment to store more food, and trucks to transport it to service areas. This is a cost burden for them.

What the Bill Would Do:

Create tax deductions for businesses that donate food storage equipment and food transportation vehicles to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.

Current tax code only allows for charitable donations for food inventory, defined as "food intended for human consumption that meets all quality and labeling standards imposed by federal, state, and local laws and regulations even though the food may not be readily marketable due to appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, surplus, or other conditions" (IRS.gov).

Americans in need should not fear for where their next meal will come from, and local organizations fighting hunger should have the resources to serve their communities. Skipping a meal is common fear amongst those who rely on local foodbanks, such as families struggling to make ends meet, and our senior citizens.

In 2022, over 44 million Americans were food insecure, or lacked access to affordable and nutritious foods. Food insecurity disproportionately harms senior citizens on fixed incomes, lower-income households, and communities of color. Additionally, Black and Hispanic/Latino adults reported higher rates of food insecurity from 2022 to 2023.

As cost of living continues to rise, more Americans will likely need to rely on charitable food donation organizations. This bill would help food banks and service organizations feed Americans across the nation in every community.

Supporting Organizations:

American Logistics Aid Network (ALAN); California Restaurant Association; Foodrecovery.org; Global Cold Chain Alliance; Los Angeles Regional Food Bank; Meals on Wheels (America, California, & San Diego County); National Restaurant Association

To cosponsor, fill out this <u>FORM</u>, or email Elizabeth Smith (<u>Elizabeth.Smith@mail.house.gov</u>) with questions.