

Dear Representative Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

We have too much food going in the trash and not enough into some of our residents' bellies. Both these problems can be addressed with H7698, the Food Donation Tax Credit (FDTC).

The state's only landfill is projected to reach capacity by 2040. When it's full, solid waste is going to become a huge, very expensive problem for the state. We can prolong the life of the landfill by cutting back on the amount of food that gets thrown in the trash—it's around 30% of all the material we are currently discarding. Keeping food out of the trash will not only save us money, but it will also help fight climate change, because rotting food is a major source of the methane and carbon dioxide that landfills produce.

Good food should not go to our landfill to rot. It should go to feed hungry Rhode Islanders. We have a robust network of food banks and soup kitchens in the state, and they can handle any surplus edible food that our food businesses donate. Offering a tax break gives these food businesses the incentive to take that extra step of getting edible food to a qualified organization, rather than throwing it away. By voting Yes on H7698, you can support local businesses, local food security organizations, and low-income Rhode Islanders all at the same time.

Please vote yes on H7698. Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Charlotte Roberts, PhD  
Providence resident (02908)  
Professor of Sociology, Providence College