

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Finance Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the RI Hospitality Association in strong support of H 7698, legislation establishing a tax credit for food donations.

This bill represents a thoughtful approach to addressing food insecurity while reducing food waste across our state. Rhode Island's restaurants, hotels, caterers, and food service providers work hard every day to serve their communities, and many already make efforts to donate surplus food to local nonprofits. However, logistical costs, liability concerns, and thin operating margins can make it difficult to scale these efforts. H 7698 provides a meaningful incentive that will empower more businesses to participate in food donation programs.

By offering a tax credit equal to 75% of the fair market value of donated food up to \$5,000 annually, this legislation helps offset the real costs associated with safely handling, storing, and transporting surplus food. Importantly, the bill is structured with clear guardrails, ensuring that donated food is directed to nonprofit organizations serving those in need, and that proper documentation and accountability measures are in place.


For the hospitality industry, this is a practical and commonsense policy. Food waste is an unavoidable reality in our sector, but it should not come at the expense of families facing food insecurity. This legislation creates a bridge between surplus and need, encouraging businesses to redirect high-quality, safe food to those who can benefit from it most.

At a time when both businesses and households are facing economic pressures, H 7698 offers a win-win solution. It supports local nonprofits, helps struggling families, reduces environmental impact, and provides modest but meaningful relief to the businesses that are stepping up to help.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to support H 7698 and advance this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

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