



Via Electronic Mail

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Room 211, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: CLF **Supports** Senate Bill No. 2447 – Tax Credit for Food Donation

Dear Chair DiPalma:

The Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 2447. We offer our enthusiastic support for this bill.

CLF is a member-supported nonprofit organization working to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and build healthy communities in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Through its Communities and Toxics team, CLF aims to improve food donation and protect communities and our environment from harmful greenhouse gas emissions when food is wasted and disposed of as trash.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2447 is to create a tax credit for qualified taxpayers that donate food to Rhode Island organizations, such as the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, who serve people that face food insecurity, while helping to make surplus food donation a common practice.

In Rhode Island, 38 percent of households with children say they are experiencing food insecurity. Meanwhile, businesses send approximately 55,000 tons of edible food to the state’s landfill each year.¹ Through its statewide network of 143 member agencies, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank served on average 77,500 people each month in 2023 (January through September), 30% more than one year ago and 49% more than before the pandemic.² At the same time, local farms, food service companies, manufacturing, and other retail businesses send approximately 55,000 tons of edible food to Rhode Island’s central landfill, which is nearing

¹ *R.I. food industry leaders call for new tax credit for donating unused food* (Jan. 10, 2024), The Boston Globe, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/01/10/metro/rhode-island-tax-credit-unused-food-hunger-insecurity-waste/>.

² *See 2023 Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island*, The Rhode Island Community Food Bank, https://rifoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-RICFB-StatusReport-FINAL-digital.pdf?et rid=1934715119&s_campaign=rhodemap:newsletter.

capacity, according to Allison Montagnon, a spokeswoman for the Food Policy Council. This results in greenhouse gas emissions that exceed approximately 330.8 million pounds per year.³

Businesses lose money from food that goes to waste. Rhode Island businesses need more incentives to divert food they can't serve or sell and large numbers of Rhode Island citizens facing food insecurity need this food. Excess food donation is an easy and effective solution towards eliminating food loss, supporting businesses, promoting sustainability, and achieving 100% food insecurity in Rhode Island. We therefore urge you to pass Senate Bill No. 2447.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Stang
Senior Attorney, Rhode Island
Conservation Law Foundation

cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Senator Meghan E. Kallman
Senator Bridget Valverde
Senator Melissa Murray
Senator Pamela J. Lauria
Senator Dawn Euer
Senator Linda L. Ujifusa
Senator David P. Tikoian
Darrèll Brown, Vice President, Rhode Island, Conservation Law Foundation

³ See Boston Globe, *supra* note 1.