



WEST END COMMUNITY CENTER

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My Name is Jack Lenz. I am the Development Associate at the West End Community Center. I am here now to express my strong support for Bill Number S2447. I have become passionate about the issue of food insecurity over the course of my time working at WECC which operates one of Providences busiest Food Pantries, serving around 100 individuals each day. A portion of the food we currently distribute is food that we have rescued from local supermarkets, so I know firsthand the difference, this rescued food makes for our families in need. Incentivizing restaurants and other businesses to donate their surplus food would help food pantries increase the volume and diversity of food served. Receiving this quality excess food would significantly help propel the mission of our organization and other similar organizations striving to decrease the number of people experiencing hunger in our communities. With Businesses and non-profits working together to reduce food waste by diverting quality food from landfills and to our friends, families' neighbors and community members who need it we could increase the strength of our community networks and reduce the number of people facing food and nutrition insecurity.

Overall, The Food Donation Tax Credit helps strengthen our food system by putting people first reducing food insecurity in our communities, strengthening food relief programs abilities to serve our communities. Helping businesses turn their losses into community gains. Additionally, diverting perfectly good food from the landfills increases sustainability to ensure a positive future for everyone.

I encourage everyone to consider the many benefits the Food Donation Tax Credit has to offer Thank you all.

STRONGER
together