



November 30, 2009

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232, US Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the New York Farm Bureau and Food Bank Association of New York State, we ask for your cosponsorship and advocacy in bringing the Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Extension Act, S.1313/H.R.3227, to the House floor for a vote before the end of this year. This legislation encourages farmer food donations to food banks by preventing the deduction's expiration at the end of the year. It also allows more donating farmers to participate in this tax benefit.

With 10% unemployment and other effects of the economic recession being felt by the families of New York State, our farm families have responded with contributions of fresh, nutritious, high quality food to local food banks statewide. New York Farm Bureau is proud to have donated almost 4 million pounds of food last year alone through the "Harvest for All" donation campaign.

This economic recession has impacted our agriculture industry as well. Although charity, magnanimity and community are the driving force for our farmers' food donations, practically the federal tax deduction helps our farmers compensate for the increased costs of harvesting, processing and transportation to provide these donations.

USDA's Economic Research Service released its annual report on Household Food Security in the U.S. which revealed that 17 million households, or 14.6 percent, had difficulty putting enough food on the table in 2008. This is a significant increase of 13 million households, or 11.1

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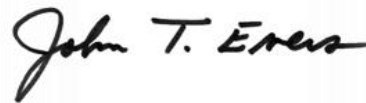
percent, from 2007. In light of this data, we feel it is imperative that this federal tax deduction continue and allow for more participants to answer the growing need for food donations and local food bank services.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you help us combat hunger in New York with the passage of this important legislation by the end of this year. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean E. Norton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dean E. Norton  
President  
New York Farm Bureau

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Evers". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first letters of each name being prominent.

John T. Evers  
Executive Director  
Food Bank Association of NYS