MISSION: READINESS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Federal Policy Update

Policy Focus: Food Recovery & Food Waste Elimination

Mission: Readiness Nutrition Road Map
Support A Durable, Responsive Food System

Food Recovery:

USDA: “practice of collecting wholesome food that would otherwise go to waste and donating it to local food distribution agencies to help feed those in need. Food is collected from places such as farms, schools, restaurants, grocery stores and produce markets.”

- **Liability protection:** The federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act shields donors and recovery organizations from criminal and civil liability arising from the age, packaging or condition of donated food.
- **Date labeling:** The labels on food products—sell by, use by, best by, enjoy by—are generally indicators of quality, not safety. Aside from infant formula, the federal government does not regulate food date labels.

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Food Waste Elimination:

- Waste occurs throughout the food system: farms (16%), manufacturers (2%), businesses (39%) and households (43%).
- Goal of USDA and EPA is to reduce food waste by half

"In 2018, the EPA estimated that Americans waste about 70 million tons of food per year; the US spends $218 Billion per year to grow, handle, deliver, dispose of uneaten food"

Food Waste Elimination & Food Recovery Policies (2018 Farm Bill)

Food Waste Elimination:

- Donations of mis-labeled meat and poultry
- Clarified donations of imported produce not meeting inspection standards
- TA to schools on how to reduce
  - Offer v. Serve Criteria

Food Recovery:

- TEFAP funding for food pantries partnering
- Farmer Market to schools and food pantries

Opportunities to Increase Public Will

Ideas under consideration by Congress:

- Establish a Food Recovery Liaison within USDA
- Incentivize reduction in waste at farms and schools
- Additional funding for food recovery to food pantries
- Community and school education

- HR 5459 (Pingree) School Food Recovery Act
- HR 4444 (Brownley) / S 2389 (Booker) Zero Food Waste Act
- HR 3652 (Axne) National Food Waste Reduction Act
- HR 2803 / S 1337 Agriculture Resilience Act

Ideas

Questions

Next Steps

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