Dear Editor,

Food banks are an integral part of California’s anti-hunger safety net. They keep five million people healthy with fresh produce and protein. But food banks are hamstrung, in part because it has been almost 20 years since the state invested in the food bank infrastructure. At 20.6%, our state has the nation’s highest poverty rate and the demand for emergency food is only increasing as families struggle with unprecedented devastation from wildfires, a fear of accessing CalFresh benefits, and a meteoric rise in housing costs.

It’s time for the state to step up and help food banks by carving out $25 million in a one-time infrastructure investment and $12.6 million for CalFood. This investment will enable food banks to distribute more California grown foods and improve the long-term health of our communities. As the Governor and the state legislature make final changes to the budget, I encourage them to think of the millions of Californians that depend on food banks as their only safe place to get the nutrition they need to live healthy, productive lives by including $25 million for infrastructure and $12.6 million for CalFood.

Sincerely,

INSERT NAME  
INSERT FOOD BANK