



March 19, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal
Review
State Capitol, Rm. 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on
Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Rm. 5019
Sacramento, CA 9581

Re: Bolstering Emergency Food & Disaster Resilience: \$32m one-time investment.

Dear Budget Chair Skinner and Budget Subcommittee Chair Eggman,

We the undersigned respectfully request **\$32 million in one-time** funding to build the long-term resilience and capacity of the emergency food network to feed low-income Californians during disasters. This investment will help foodbanks across the state fund **permanent on-site back up systems to sustain emergency food operations during climate crises and other disasters**, including but not limited to back-up generators, power storage, clean vehicles, charging stations, and related infrastructure to maintain continuity of operations and prevent food loss during a crisis.


These investments will prevent catastrophic food loss that occurs when the energy grid fails for any number of reasons. Building better food bank resilience is increasingly urgent to ensure that more frequent and intense natural disasters and electric power shutoffs don't cause disruption to our food security safety net. Additionally, these one-time investments will reduce the carbon footprint of the emergency food system and help the state meet its climate goals.

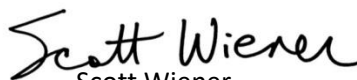
The COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying economic disruption pushed nearly 1 in 4 California households into some form of food insecurity nearly overnight. In response, our food banks snapped into action, providing access food to those in need and emerging as the backbone of our social safety net. Events during the past few years have revealed the crucial role that food banks play in serving our communities in a time of need and exposed vulnerabilities to reliable supply of energy.


Investing in an energy resilient food bank system responds to the state's need to protect against food loss during energy service interruption and ensure more reliable food access to people in need.

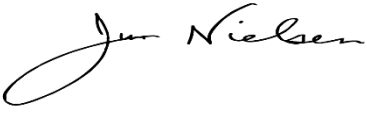
For these reasons, we seek the inclusion of a one-time \$32 million expenditure for the California Department of Social Services to award grants to food banks that facilitate the distribution of food to low-income households.

Sincerely,


Josh Newman
Senator, 29th District


Scott Wiener
Senator, 32nd District


Tom Umberg
Senator, 34th District



Jim Nielsen
Senator, 4th District



Lena Gonzales
Senator, 33rd District



Brian Jones
Senator, 38th District



Monique Limón
Senator, 19th District



Anna Caballero
Senator, 12th District



Patricia Bates
Senator, 36th District



Mike McGuire
Senator, 2nd District



Dave Min
Senator, 37th District



Josh Becker
Senator, 13th District

Emergency Food Climate & Disaster Resilience Draft Budget Bill Language

\$32 million for one-time climate and disaster resilience investments:

Of the amount appropriated in this item, the State Department of Social Services shall allocate up to \$32,000,000 in awarded grants to existing Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) providers members of Feeding America based in California, or members of the California Association of Food Banks, whose ongoing primary function is to facilitate the distribution of food to low-income households. The grants shall support one-time climate and disaster resilience needs of the emergency food delivery system, including, but not limited to, capital investments needed to support the generation and storage of backup power, clean vehicles, charging stations, and other capacity and systems required to adequately serve the food insecurity needs of California during times of natural or human-made disasters. Notwithstanding any other law, the department shall establish an application process for these grants, which shall be exempt from the requirements of Article 4 (commencing with Section 19130) of Chapter 5 of Part 2 of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the Public Contract Code and the State Contracting Manual, and shall not be subject to the approval of the Department of General Services. The department may, at its sole discretion, provide up to 50 percent of a grant award as cash in advance of actual purchases made by a grantee.