

Be an Advocate

One of the greatest ways you can support the needs of hungry people here in our communities is by advocating on their behalf before one of the most powerful institutions in the world - the government.

You can send a letter to your local representative by regular mail, e-mail or fax.

Dear Senator *insert last name* OR Dear Representative *insert last name*

**1,200,000 Pennsylvanians do not have access to adequate food.
162,000 Pennsylvanians are hungry.
Grocery store food prices increased at an 8 percent annual rate in 2007.**

These programs address hunger and food insecurity for Pennsylvanians in need:

State Food Purchase Program provides grants to all 67 counties for the purchase of foods and nutritional supplements, for critical transportation and infrastructure needs, and to cover the charges associated with accessing federal food commodities. It is an essential tool for Pennsylvania's food banks and food pantries in the effort to provide for our most vulnerable citizens.

Farmers Market Nutrition Program serves two important goals: good health for Pennsylvania seniors and WIC families, and higher sales by Pennsylvania fruit and vegetable farmers. Operating from June to November, this program increases the sales of farmers engaged in direct marketing, teaches nutritious eating habits to young families and helps 175,000 seniors to stay healthy by eating fresh produce.

Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System is a new partnership of the PA Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks, and the agricultural community. Benefits to the farmers include: avoiding high costs of landfill disposal, creating positive public relations, increasing new market potential, and reducing overhead cost. Food banks would have access to more fresh nutritious Pennsylvania-grown produce to help our neighbors in need.

Neighborhood Assistance Program is not a grant program, but an "incentive" program that provides tax credits to corporations that make contributions to approved programs. Any business or industry subject to the Pennsylvania corporate net income tax, gross premiums tax, bank & trust company shares tax, title insurance shares, capital stock or foreign franchise tax may receive a **55% tax credit on eligible contributions** to approved NAP projects. The Pennsylvania Charitable Food Network receives millions of dollars worth of donated food through NAP each year.

These programs are vitally important to me because they help feed hungry people in our state. That the need for such programs even exists in a state as prosperous as Pennsylvania is beyond comprehension. **I hope you agree that these programs must be supported and that you will communicate this position to your caucus leaders.**

Thank you in advance on behalf of all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

Insert your name & date.

Insert full address.