

2009 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SB 2231

## 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2231

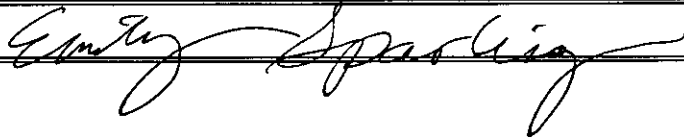
Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01/29/2009

Recorder Job Number: 8124

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Senator J. Lee** Introduced the bill. Differed questions to others.

**Steve Sellent** Program Director, Great Plains Food Bank. Spoke in support of SB 2231. See attachment # 1.

**Senator Olafson** Finding number four surprised me, is the majority of need short term?

**Sellent** Yes, that is correct.

**Senator Lee** Senator Fieberger is supporting this because it is a bipartisan effort, I apologize that he was not able to be here. Can you tell us a little bit about the relationship of rural areas with food banks?

**Sellent** Most of this new programming is targeted at the rural areas. There are more resources in the large areas so there is greater need in the rural areas. The biggest barrier is embarrassment and the second is transportation. In rural areas this is a real concern when people are have to chose between food or gas.

**Senator Lee** Is it not true that in smaller communities everyone knows everyone so they can ask for help from others but they are too embarrassed?

**Sellent** The phrase Prairie Pride came up quite a bit, so embarrassment is an issue. With the new program, people will be able to access food in areas not on Main Street. We will be using churches as distribution sites so that people feel more comfortable getting help.

**Chairman Andrist** Are rural counties aware of your services?

**Sellent** Yes, but they are so far away that it is difficult for them to access food. We are working on that. Almost all the charitable food organizations in the area are members of the ND food bank. We are trying to find creative solutions

**Senator Dotzenrod** How are you able to determine if someone is using government assistance or not? How did you find you data?

**Sellent** Our data is based on a couple of studies where we go in and interview random clients and ask them a variety of questions. That is where we get the information.

**Senator Dotzenrod** Is this program sustainable or will you need to continually ask for money each legislative session?

**Sellent** We have always been privately funded. Our hope is that we can use a bit of public funding to advertise and promote our programs that will then bring in private funding. We are not asking for money to sustain current programs but rather to start new ones. This funding is not intended to be sustainable.

**Representative Nancy Johnson** District #37. I support this bill. I think it is great.

**Senator Tom Fiebiger** District #45. I support this bill. I think this bill takes specific action as requests for food from food banks has increased. This is a tangible way to help children and families. I respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation.

**Anne Paulert** Executive Director, ND Community Action Partnership. Spoke in support of SB 2231. See attachment #2.

**Susan Martin** Executive Director of Ruth Meiers Hospitality House. Spoke in support of SB 2231. See attachment #3.

**Chairman Andrist** Is there any further testimony?

**There was no neutral or opposing testimony.**

**Senator Lee** I move a **Do Pass** recommendation.

**Senator Dotzenrod** Second

The clerk called the role on the motion to **Do Pass**. **Yes: 6, No: 0, Absent: 0.**

**Senator Lee will carry the bill.**

Date: 1/29/01  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2231

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do pass  Do not pass  Amend  other

Motion Made By Senator J. Lee Seconded By Senator Dotzenrod

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman John M. Andrist	/		Senator Arden C. Anderson	/	
Vice Chairman Curtis Olafson	/		Senator JoNell A. Bakke	/	
Senator Judy Lee	/		Senator Jim Dotzenrod	/	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator J. Lee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Re refer to appropriations

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2231: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Andrist, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2231 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.**

2009 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2231

# 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2231

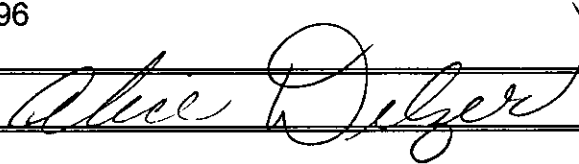
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02-04-09

Recorder Job Number: 8596

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Holmberg:** called the committee hearing to order in reference to SB 2231 in regards to contracting with a statewide charitable food recovery and distribution organization.

All members were present.

**Steve Sellent: Director of the Great Plains Food Bank,** testified in favor of SB 2231 (See attachment #1)

**Senator Judy Lee: District 13, West Fargo** testified in favor of SB 2231 and stated she highly supported this bill. She also stated the Senate Political Subdivision Committee supports this bill.

**Steve Sellent:** continued his testimony. He listed three new programs that would be funded with the passing of this bill.

#1. Mobile Food Pantry

#2. A Prepackaged Food Box Program

#3. A Rural Restock Program

In his testimony are also copies of letters from the following persons in support of SB 2231.

1. Dean Hornbacher, President Hornbacher's Foods, Fargo, ND.
2. Ann Pollert, Executive Director of the North Dakota Community Action Partnership representing the seven North Dakota Community Action Agencies.



3. Susan Martin, Executive Director of Ruth Meier's Hospitality House, Bismarck, ND.
4. Carl Young, proud parent and father of five children.

**Senator Mathern:** We heard in this committee that a number of jobs have gone up, incomes gone up, low unemployment, what is going on that there is an increase in food and shelter needs?

**Steve Sellent:** We saw some really interesting things this year, they saw some decrease in the west last year, the overall state increase is 5.6 % which is very low, We saw an increase in Cass County.(17.37) a lot we are the last resort for people who need food assistance. We've been seeing for 20 years across the nation. (17.37)

**Senator Warner:** I am pleased to see you are working with other agencies. In my limited experiences with this population is they don't have the skills to cook, preserved goods, or utilize fresh foods, the food that is being donated is fresh produce. Are you working with this population in regards to self-sufficiency, such as canning and dietary issues?

**Steve Sellent:** Great question. One of our major partners in our projects is the NDSU extension service. They are in the food pantries every month working on dietary education. Things are changed in better mix of food, the future are really going to be the produce and we know no one has looked at the full picture of hunger in ND until we did this study.

**Senator Fischer:** With regards to your 09-11 budgets, could you explain food handling fees in both expenses and revenues?

**Steve Sellent:** With regards to the food handling fees, we work kind of like a co-op with our member agencies, so they share our cost up to \$.18/lb for trucking food in from around the country. 40% come from out of state, i.e. Florida and elsewhere. They cover 25% of our costs. The coop purchase program started 5 years ago. We buy semi-loads of food, usually at 40-50% of retail price for food brokers and others.

**V. Chair Bowman:** With ND's unemployment rate at only 3.5%, what regulation do you have or what regulates who is qualified? I know some of the people who can afford their own groceries, and if they can get it for little or nothing, they will be the first in line. In my opinion, this defeats the purpose of what you are trying to do, so how do you control those that actually have a need versus those that are trying to get something for nothing?

**Steve Sellent:** For the most part, the food pantries that we supply also get USGA commodities. We supply about 60% of the food, USGA commodities at about 25% of the food. Most of our food pantries use the USGA Commodities Guidelines, which are 185% of poverty and they are required to check that at least once a year.

**Karen Erins: ND Dietetic Association** testified in favor of SB (See attachment#2). My husband and I teach a cooking class that is a valid point. In addition, public health services have nutritionist out there.

**Chairman Holmberg** stated the committee will discuss this.

**Senator Krebsbach:** I am a co-sponsor on this bill. I have visited at length with Steve and I must say, this program has really impressed me. We have food pantries and soup kitchens in our area and it is amazing how many people take advantage of this service. Yes, we have unemployment, but it does not mean that we still do not have some poverty issues in this state. What really interested me was the statewide coordinated effort in this plan. It brings together several entities at the federal, state, local, and private sectors.

**Chairman Holmberg** closed the hearing on SB 2231.

## 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2231

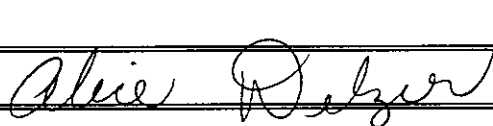
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02/10/09

Recorder Job Number: 9094

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Holmberg** opened discussion on SB 2231.

**Senator Mathern** indicated the stimulus package will be helpful until it all fits into place. He indicated that essentially the bill as he sees it will permit an entity going around with a good price. He supports passing the bill.

**Chairman Holmberg** stated this says it is for the biennium.

**Sandy** indicated this is for one time.

**Senator Mathern** moved a DO PASS on SB 2231; **Senator Krebsbach** seconded. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 5 yes, 7 no, and 2 absent. The motion failed.

**Senator Grindberg** moved a DO NOT PASS on SB 2231; **Senator Bowman** seconded. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 7 yes, 5 no, 2 absent. The motion carried.

**Chairman Holmberg** closed the hearing.

Date: 2/10/09  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2231

Senate \_\_\_\_\_ Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken motion Failed

Motion Made By Mather Seconded By K Krebsbach

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Senator Krebsbach	✓		Senator Seymour		✓
Senator Fischer		✓	Senator Lindaas	A	
Senator Wardner	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Kilzer		✓	Senator Warner	A	
V. Chair Bowman		✓	<del>Senator</del>		
Senator Christmann		✓	Senator Krauter	✓	
V. Chair Grindberg		✓	Senator Mather	✓	
Chairman Holmberg		✓			

Total Yes 5 No 7

Absent 2

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/10/09  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2231

Senate \_\_\_\_\_ Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended

Motion Made By Grindberg Seconded By Bowman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Senator Fischer	/		Senator Warner		/
Senator Christmann	/	/	Senator Robinson		/
Senator Krebsbach		/	Senator Krauter		/
Senator Bowman	/	/	Senator Lindaas	A	/
Senator Kilzer	/	/	Senator Mathern		/
Senator Grindberg	/	/	Senator Seymour	/	/
Senator Wardner		/			
Chairman Holmberg	/				

Total Yes 7 No 5

Absent 2

Floor Assignment — ~~H.~~ Holmberg

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent: o

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
February 10, 2009 12:20 p.m.

Module No: SR-26-2251  
Carrier: Holmberg  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

SB 2231: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (7 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2231 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SB 2231

# 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Bill No. SB 2231

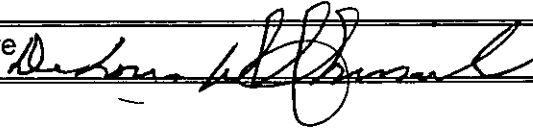
### House Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 5, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10802

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Vice Chairman Headland** opened the hearing on SB 2231.

**Senator Fiebiger:** (see testimony #1).

**Rep. Koppelman:** Your testimony indicated that this was leverage for every one dollar to sixteen dollars. How does that work and is the fifteen there if we don't do the one?

**Senator Fiebiger:** Please ask this of someone else who knows.

**Rep. Zaiser:** I certainly am aware of a substantial increase in use of the food bank.

**Steve Sellent, Program Director: Great Plains Food Bank:** (see testimony #2). Includes Dean Hornbacher, President, Hornbacher's Food because he could not attend.

**Senator Lee:** We have been working hard to bring this proposal forward. It is clearly thought out and so well planned and implemented that it is just a delight to consider something like this. So often we have good ideas that come to us but they are a little nebulous. Many of us have had the opportunity to contribute to the food bank. They just do a remarkable job. As you go through the information from Mr. Sellent and his testimony. There are these all over the state and there are people who fight to assist with it. This is a onetime expenditure. They are commented to be able to get this in place at this level with their fund raising efforts. I am really impressed with their efforts. So we are looking at ways to get this service to more of our



rural locations. I look forward to how your discussions are going and I am confident that you have good information from those that are testifying behind me and I know you will have questions for them as well.

**Rep. Zaiser:** I think this program will be needed in the state especially now more than ever.

**Rep. Kerzman:** I just want to be on record in support of this bill. When I first heard about it I was really excited. It is good to get more food out in the rural areas with the food bank. It is such a good outreach to the rural areas. I will do the best I can to get the appropriations for this.

**Steve Sellent:** (continued his testimony). We are only asking for a one time funding, but we do not want to shut the door if a situation comes up in the future. The question came up about the stimulus program and how that is going to impact our proposal. There is \$166,000 for the ND Prepacked Program operated by the Department of Public Instruction. We wish to add about 3.6% to current food supply in North Dakota. It is going to help the short term food bank. It will be here for two years. It will not impact our proposal because we are addressing the long term disaster service. Over 15,000 North Dakotas have turned to these programs each year. Many rural people don't have excess to services. Together we can make a huge dent in addressing these unmet needs and a huge difference in the life of tens of thousands of North Dakotas struggling to put food on the table. On behalf of those people and the ND Charitable Feeding Network thank you so much for your time and positive consideration of our request.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I am asking about the leveraging with regards to the \$16. How does that work and would the \$15 be there without the one?

**Steve Sellent:** The way you do that is the majority or 95% so our franchise looked at how do you look at it to get more food and keep it from going to waste. The reason you get \$16 off for every dollar is because that cost comes first hand from truck and staffing, but we actually do

not pay anything for the food. What would happen without the legislative funding we cover \$16. No because for every dollar we have to take \$16 that we are not going to use. Are we still going to go out and find new food banks? The answer is yes, but we would have to cut back the amount of things we could do. We looked long and hard to figure out where we could find food and 25 years that we are privately funded. We looked at every revenue line item and here is what we could get. We are going to raise most of the money; we are going to raise 60% to start with. This funding request is a kick start to get us going on the expansion.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I want to compliment you on what your organization does. Went into a discussion in what the organization does and hoped that this organization would not become dependent on government funds since you have done so well otherwise. Can you address that a little bit in terms of your request? I did read the paragraph and I did hear your comment that this is not going to be a permanent thing but I would like to hear a little more about it.

**Steve Sellent:** We have three staff to help to build a funding base over the last five years in particular. We are going to be working with the local communities to help us support the funding that we get. We have 16,000 donors right now. We have the United Way support. We have foundation support, church support etc. to help us. You actually bring up a great point is that there is a lot of arrows when you get government funding and get a bigger and bigger piece of that. So we really are long term looking at the committed and the funds for this proposal throughout the state and I understand with our past experience has proven that we can do that and in the past five years we have taken more and more money. We have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next few years for these programs. Hopefully that answers your question.

**Rep. Koppelman:** Looking at your map I see Moorhead and Hawley, Minnesota and the Fargo Moorhead area where you operate. Is a similar request before the Minnesota legislature? Are you looking to them for any help for those operations?

**Steve Sellent:** We actually do get support from the Minnesota side to promote programs and what their economic situation is and asked for increases. But the funding for North Dakota will all go to the state of North Dakota.

**Rep. Jerry Kelsh:** I appreciate the work you do. I do have one question on some of the terminology feeding programs, I think of feeding cows versus food for people. I am having a problem when you are talking about people so I was wondering what the reason for that type of terminology is.

**Steve Sellent:** I guess that is just what we use.

**Rep. Corey Mock:** I am also very impressed with your organization and your organizations ability to plan. I am looking at the budget and I have heard more organizations and it is more important now than it ever has been because of the situation and the finances, unemployment and the like. I have heard also that charitable organizations declined in contributions. In your budget have you taken that into consideration?

**Steve Sellent:** In really bad times people tend to be conservative. We have had to increase our fund raising efforts this past year. We really feel based on what happened this last year that we can buck that trend. Our funding in the Fargo area has been good. Also funding in the rural areas and Dickinson has been good. Discussed the economy and layoffs and how they were needing to work with this.

**Rep. Headland:** You have a great organization and it seems to really get to the heart of the problem out there but my fear is that many of the programs out there that become government programs is that once donors find out that there is government funding behind the program,

they become less likely to donate. There is no evidence that in this case that would happen, but I think that we can track prior programs that have been taken over by government where the donations have dropped off. My fear is if we do pass this it could harm your program more than help it.

**Steve Sellent:** We work really hard to educate our donors over the last year about what our plans are and what our needs are so I think they would understand that we really need this funding and again we would share with them what our long term funding programs through our own donors. I would think they would look at it pretty highly that if the state can help us get all our new programs going and get us off the ground. They would feel good about that knowing that we regard this as a short term thing. One thing that came up earlier; five years ago we had 6,000 donors; last year we had 16,000 donors and that is above that now. We really geared up our funding so that we can support what we need to do to support that long term. So we feel pretty confident about what we can do long term. We can't do it right now. We cannot address these problems now so that is what we will share with our donor base. It is an interesting question.

**Rep. Zaiser:** Basically it is about the expectations of your budget and the efforts to funnel your money through. I ran a nonprofit in Fargo for a number of years and there were a number of board members who were optimistic about being private sector funds to meet the budget. Are you being too optimistic? They projected things and then it started to drop off. Maybe you have too big of plans. Maybe if you start smaller and then come to that next level later

**Steve Sellent:** We started talking about these two years ago so this whole thing has been in the planning stages for two years. When it comes to my program I am a fiscal conservative and have been for 18 years. I have started numerous programs; the food bank and each one when we started we had to put ourselves on the line, so we started a program that hopefully

will not fail. This has been a two year process and clearly thought out. We started the fund raising process six months ago. We are going to make sure, or we are not going to do it. We want to end hunger in North Dakota so that we our goal with the food bank. We know there are people not being served and we can't stand back and say oh well. We are here today because we need help to get this program going now. We need to be able to fund it and run it long term.

**Rep. Zaiser:** In terms of your fund raising efforts have you done any kind of analysis basically of individuals; have you pared that to expectations and what other people have done in other states with similar human needs programs in terms of volunteers and numbers of dollars per hour or number of dollars per commitment or whatever you want to call it. Have you done anything like this? I think it is pretty important. I appreciate your determination.

**Steve Sellent:** Yes. We are going to need one and a half million dollars now. We are looking at probably 1.8 million dollars over the next two years. Not a huge increase. We actually have looked at what we were able to raise compared to what other people have been able to rise and using that to help with the fund raising projection. It is based primarily on our past experience; the trend that is working and the fact that we have been able to do over the past 20 years.

**Rep. Wrangham:** Could the Department of Human Services sets this program in place within their current budget if the money was available or is this something that you need this bill in

**Steve Sellent:** I think what happened is that it got too late for us to late and it is not in their current budget so they would have to add it to their budget or work through them. I think our assumption is that this would be under the Department of Human Services and the funding would be under them and we would work through them for the program because they are closest to doing the kind of work we do.

**Rep. Klemin:** Some of us are concerned about government funding with essentially private charitable functions. Unless it can be shown that there is some corresponding savings on the government side such as a reduction in public assistance or something like that to save funds by spending money here and I don't see any analysis of anything like that.

**Steve Sellent:** I think that basically we talked a little bit about that and we know there is long term impact on hunger. That means we probably aren't going to be as productive. The study that we did and is part of the national study was \$159 million annually. There is a significant long term financial impact on this state because of the education opportunities and the quality of life and hospitalization has a whole lot to do with those costs and everyday nutrition. So these services pay a lot of money. A direct affect on the state's budget is like the NAP or WICK program, probably not because everything we are addressing is from a point so far that is under served in this state so this offering to bringing them up to the level we need in the state. This is about bringing up the level; not taking away from somebody else.

**Rep. Klemin:** When looking at your proposed budget here there is a large amount of funding going to administrative services.

**Steve Sellent:** We need the money for all our support groups which is all our counties so basically we choose to hire them since they are there.

**Rep. Klemin:** Is the Department of Human Services going to help?

**Steve Sellent:** there are several agencies involved, but I don't believe Human Services is one of them.

**Rep. Conrad:** The \$250 thousand here is the building, the property to serve people, but it is in addition to the budget?

**Steve Sellent:** It is in the whole \$817 thousand so somewhere around 12% or 13% will go for administrative services.

**Rep. Conrad:** I think this is a fantastic project and is a onetime funding. If we had a situation in Minot through the church councils every day they serve in Minot in one church or another. How are you connected with that or do you see that as something you are going to do in the future?

**Steve Sellent:** Actually they get food from us currently. We would have a truck in Minot every day delivering food through the YWMCA so we already have food available every day. All six of those places in Minot will take advantage of that. (Handed out testimony #3).

**Susan Martin, Executive Director, Ruth Meiers Hospitality House:** (see testimony #4).

**Andrea Olson, Asset Development Coordinator:** (see testimony #5).

**Karen Ehrens, A Licensed Register Dietitian: NDDA:** (see testimony #6).

**Sue Balcom: Local Foods marketing Specialist, NDDA:** (see testimony #7).

**Rep. Koppelman:** You talked about distribution. How will that work in these other areas that aren't served now. Are you using churches or local businesses? How do you get it there?

**Sue Balcom:** We are fairly new and just like planting a garden you have to start earlier planting and so we are looking for ways to distribute. We are asking churches and other organization such as girl scouts, school, will plant gardens and hopefully we will have a means to distribute that by the time the harvest comes.

Opposition: None

Neutral: None

Hearing closed.

# 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Bill No. SB 2231

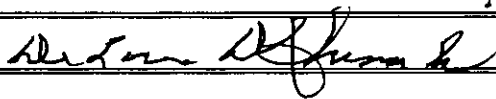
### House Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 13, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10915

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Wrangham** reopened the hearing on SB 2231.

**Rep. Headland: Motion Made To Do Not Pass. Rep. Hatlestad Seconded the Motion.**

**Discussion:**

**Rep. Headland:** the reason for my motion is it is starting another government funded program and I really believe it will be detrimental to the organization going forward because of the fact that I think once donors figure out that it is a government funded program they are going to quite donating. I think it has worked well in its present form and I think eventually without a government appropriation they can get to where they want to be with the program. I am in favor of the program and I would like it to continue but I don't believe we should government fund it.

**Rep. Nancy Johnson:** I am going to resist the do not pass motion. I think this is an opportunity where we have a private public partnership where the public part of it that they are asking to do is minor compared to what they are going to do and carry forward. I loved the part where they are going to go into the rural smaller communities and the food banks and it is smaller amount of dollars. We have people laid off and they are going to have food and needs for social services and social welfare programs. I think this is a good way to contain those



products. They seem to handle their money and they are a lot more effective than if we were to try and do this kind of program at the state level and get into the state bureaucracy. This is helping them get the private sector going and they can really accomplish a lot across the state.

**Rep. Conrad:** You look at the map they have in there were they essentially are. There is a model there that works; they have churches where they can keep the food and people come there on a regular basis. What they are really talking about in many ways is going into the areas where there isn't a community that is doing that or able to do that. So they are developing new strategies and I don't know if I see anyone across the country doing this. I think this is a great program and I believe it will be short term. They don't want to receive government money partially because those people that get the food from these food pantries are not able to go on public assistance. Even though people are eligible they don't want to go and get food stamps because they don't want to be on the rolls and they don't want to be on welfare. So then what we are doing is serving another group of people in other ways to make sure hunger in our state is eliminated.

**Rep. Klemin:** What bothers me about this is we did not hear anything from the Department of Human Services about this. I don't recall anyone from the Department of Agriculture coming in to talk about this. I would like to have had information from them as to how it might fit into what is happening there already or their feelings about this. I have a problem with private charitable organizations coming to the legislature and asking for government money to help fund what is essentially is a tried program.

**Rep. Zaiser:** I think this is a wonderful example of a public private partnership. The answer to your questions Rep. Headland, I think this is a kick start to get this going. Once it is going I think this will actually defray the money that we put into our human services program. It appears to me, knowing these folks for a long time that they actually do a better job than our

human services department. We talked about government isn't always the answer. Here is a case where it is not government. They are just having government kick into a statewide program. I think this is a wonderful example of public and private partnership.

**Rep. Kilichowski:** I am also going to oppose the motion. Rep. Klemin, we are just asked to kick start the program. That is state money going to a nonprofit organization which is also an excellent program for kids and adults to make sure that their needs are taken care of and I think it is a good one time investment and I will support it.

**Rep. Jerry Kelsh:** I too will oppose the do not pass. A lot of the counties have food pantry's and distribute it out and over the last few years I had a friend that gave up to \$1,000 to two different food pantry's and the reason he did that was because he was a bachelor and he found a girlfriend and didn't do it. We needed that money so I think this \$350,000 and what they said they can do with it is truly amazing and there may be more hunger out there than I realize. I think we need to do everything we can to help.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I think this is a proven program. It is refreshing to see someone come before us and say we are not asking for ongoing money; this is a onetime thing. We may be back in two years, but it won't be for this. It may be for something else and then we won't be back at all after that. What I would rather see than kill the bill is eliminate section 2 because the Department of Human Services has a budget of over 1.5 Million dollars and I don't think I could be convinced that they couldn't find \$350,000 in that budget to do something like this. What troubles me about the bill it is add on money when we are at the point now when we are awash in cash, but if you listen to the appropriators you learn very quickly the ever changing financial forecast that that isn't the case. I would oppose the motion, but it is not because I want to spend the money.

**Rep. Headland:** It is a great program. That is not the issue here. The issue here is we are going to take a program that has been funded by donors and we are going to put a state appropriation on it and I think we all know what will happen. Their coming back and the donors who have made this program successful and operated fiscally conservatively; all of that once government gets involved in it, will be out the window. I agree that Human Services probably find the money; however that doesn't change what I believe will essentially kill this program as it exists today.

**Roll call for a Do Not Pass:**

**Vote: 3 Yes 10 No 0 Absent Failed.**

**Do Pass Motion Made By Rep. Kilichowski: Seconded By Rep. Corey Mock:**

**Motion Made for an amendment By Rep. Koppelman: Seconded by Rep. Hatlestad:**

My proposal is that we eliminate section 2 of the bill and on line 5 after the word contract add the language that is currently on for lines 14 & 15 of the bill which reads the sum of \$350,000 or so much of the sum as may be necessary. I think that would preserve the intent of the bill, but it would force the Department of Human Services to do it within their budget and have the same accomplishment except it would take \$350,000 out of our budget.

**Rep. Zaiser:** I am going to resist the amendment because I think at the end the reason for this is the kick start in our programs. I think we should at least see what the results of the program and give it statewide coverage and not from Human Services.

**Rep. Conrad:** The food program as far as Human Services they are all federal. So the state and county authorization is to restrict the food stamps and that is it. Otherwise there are some nutrient programs with regard to education through the local lunch programs, but we do not have any think. We have \$350,000 for this.

**Rep. Koppelman:** So do they. I have served on appropriations and I know how those processes work so do some of you. Human Services is the largest in state government. It is very evident to me that they can shift money around and try to do this.

**Rep. Hatlestad:** I think the Human Services program turned money back to the state.

**Rep. Corey Mock:** I believe we should reject this amendment; send it to appropriations and let them decide whether or not this is something we as a state should do.

**Rep. Koppelman:** If you look at the appropriation reports we all get with current spending requests and current levels were are on course to spend 27% more in this year's budget. We don't have those dollars. So if we on the policy committees are going to continue to send them ideas and by the way the price tag is only X we are not going to balance our budget and we are constitutionally required to do that. We are going to have difficult decisions to make toward the end of the session. I disagree this is an unfunded mandate. The state does not authorize something and not fund it. The state funds it. It depends on which pot it comes out of and I think our biggest pot can find enough money to do this.

**Rep. Corey Mock:** If we are not appropriating any funds why then would this go to appropriations?

**Rep. Koppelman:** to refer it because it spends money.

**Voice vote failed.**

**Rep. Corey Mock:** I would like to offer another amendment. I would like to change in line 5 shall to may. If we could come up with language that says it has to be stimulus dollars? No second so motion dies.

**Chairman Wrangham:** We have a Do Pass moved by Rep. Kilichowski: Seconded By

**Rep. Corey Mock:** To be referred to appropriations.

**Rep. Pietsch:** I just think appropriations is going to look at it all and fund it so they will look into the department funds and tell if they need to direct the department to do just what Rep. Koppelman is asking. They will know if there is money that can be pushed around.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I made the motion because appropriations asked us to help trim the budget.

**Vote: 11 Yes 2 No 0 Absent Carrier: Rep. Nancy Johnson**

**Hearing closed.**

Date: 3/13  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2231

**HOUSE POLITICAL SUBS COMMITTEE**

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  DP  DNP  DP AS AMEND  DNP AS AMEND

Motion Made By C. Headland Seconded By P. Hatlestad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Ch. Wrangham	✓		Rep. Conrad	✓	✓
Vice Chair Rep. Headland	✓		Rep. Kelsh		✓
Rep. Hatlestad		✓	Rep. Kilichowski		✓
Rep. N. Johnson		✓	Rep. Mock		✓
Rep. Klemin	✓		Rep. Zaiser		✓
Rep. Koppelman		✓			
Rep. Kretschmar		✓			
Rep. Pietsch		✓			

Total (Yes) 3 No 10

Absent 0

Floor Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3/13  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2231

**HOUSE POLITICAL SUBS COMMITTEE**

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  DP  DNP  DP AS AMEND  DNP AS AMEND

Motion Made By Rep. Koppelman Seconded By Rep. Hatlestad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Ch. Wrangham			Rep. Conrad		
Vice Chair Rep. Headland			Rep. Kelsh		
Rep. Hatlestad			Rep. Kilichowski		
Rep. N. Johnson			Rep. Mock		
Rep. Klemin			Rep. Zaiser		
Rep. Koppelman					
Rep. Kretschmar					
Rep. Pietsch					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*Failed*  
*Voice Vote*  
*Dept of Human Services.*

Date: 3/13  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2231

**HOUSE POLITICAL SUBS COMMITTEE**

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  DP  DNP  DP AS AMEND  DNP AS AMEND

Motion Made By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Ch. Wrangham		✓	Rep. Conrad	✓	
Vice Chair Rep. Headland		✓	Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Hattestad	✓		Rep. Kilichowski	✓	
Rep. N. Johnson	✓		Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. Klemin	✓		Rep. Zaiser	✓	
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				
Rep. Pietsch	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 2

Absent 0

Floor Carrier: Rep. N. Johnson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*Re refer to approp.*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2231: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Wrangham, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2231 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.**

2009 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2231

## 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2231

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 24, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 11453

Committee Clerk Signature

*Carmen Hart*

Minutes:

Rep. Nancy Johnson, District 37, Dickinson, approached the podium to address SB 2231 which deals with the charitable emergency feeding network. This bill requests \$350,000 appropriation to go to the Department of Human Services to contract with the statewide provider of charitable food distribution services. That would namely be the Great Plains Food Bank. The Great Plains Food Bank serves a network of 217 food shelves, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other tradable feeding programs in 82 North Dakota communities. Presently it feeds about 52,000 children, seniors, and working families every year, approximately 1 out of 12 North Dakotans, 40% of those being children. There is an increasing challenge with aging volunteers. They also found that 29 counties are underserved. Three new programs would bring additional food to pantries. They plan to establish two new food rescue programs, one in Bismarck and one in Minot. Surplus grocery items will be collected. There will be training in the smaller communities so they can learn how to apply for grants. This will take \$800,000 for the next two years. Their current budget is about \$3 million for those two years. They felt they would be able to continue to raise \$3 million plus about \$450,000 more. They would be short about \$350,000. This is the first time they have come to the legislature for money. In effect for every \$1 of state money they could leverage \$16 of food assistance. They will not approach the legislature for these programs next year. They will

provide ongoing support. The \$350,000 is for the trucks to pick up the fresh food. This will help families who may be affected by the downturn in the economy.

Chm. Svedjan: I heard advertisements with Mikey Hoeven to generate donations for food pantries. I couldn't help but wonder if purposes like that shouldn't handle purposes like this? Is there enough going on in the communities for the public to donate? (5:13)

Rep. Johnson: Those programs get people to donate canned goods. They cannot pick up meat and produce items that are about to meet their expiration dates.

Chm. Svedjan: Did your committee look into the stimulus money? There is money for food and emergency shelter.

Rep. Johnson: That was still an unknown when this bill was taken up.

Rep. Hawken: There is no money in the stimulus that would work with this. There is lodging but no food.

Chm. Svedjan: I see what you are saying.

Rep. Delzer: Did I hear you say that part of what you want is vehicles?

Rep. Johnson: Yes, vehicles that could pick up food from restaurants, etc. They are refrigerated trucks.

Rep. Delzer: Would there be guidelines that a transit company could buy a vehicle and donate it to the organization?

Rep. Nelson: You talk about the \$350,000 for this biennium. Is that a one-time expenditure?

Rep. Johnson: The Great Plains Food Bank said this would be a one-time request.

Rep. Wald moved a Do Pass. Rep. Kaldor seconded the motion.

Rep. Delzer: I am not going to support this. It's a good cause, but we have some tough decisions to make. This organization is doing quite well on its own. This is the wrong approach for state government to be doing this.

Rep. Kerzman: This organization survey shows that they need the outreach in the rural communities. This is a one-time deal. This would enable them to get perishable items in the pantries. It gets it to areas of the state where the help is not often available.

Rep. Skarphol: It is much more valuable for them to have money than to have the food delivered. I'm not going to support this either.

Rep. Kaldor: I volunteer at a food pantry. One of the issues is that we don't have much trouble in terms of collecting dollars. Our grocery store and the Great Plains are distribution. It's not always that easy. It's better to get the food than to have the dollars to buy it in some cases. The Great Plains Food Bank has done an incredible job. There is demand like we've never seen before. This will help make sure the distribution network is more efficient.

Rep. Wieland: The Great Plains Food Bank does a good job. I'm a contributor to the Food Bank. I asked them if the government was to take over and financing and providing services, how does that impact my desire to help? I struggled with this bill and have great difficulty with it. I am not sure I can support it at this time.

Rep. Kerzman: We are such a wasteful society and the shelf life is short. If we can distribute these products where they can be utilized, I think it is so beneficial.

Rep. Glassheim: This organization does not want to become state run or dependent on government. They are asking for one-time things they cannot raise money for to get the delivery network improved. They are doing some things that we might have to do if they didn't exist.

**DO PASS. 16 YEAS, 8 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING. Rep. Nancy Johnson is the carrier of this bill.**

Date: 3/24/09  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**  
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2231**

**Full House Appropriations Committee**

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken As Pass

Motion Made By Wald

Seconded By Kaldor

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan		✓			
Vice Chairman Kempenich		✓			
Rep. Skarphol		✓	Rep. Kroeber	✓	
Rep. Wald	✓		Rep. Onstad	✓	
Rep. Hawken	✓		Rep. Williams	✓	
Rep. Klein	✓				
Rep. Martinson	✓				
Rep. Delzer		✓	Rep. Glassheim	✓	
Rep. Thoreson	✓		Rep. Kaldor	✓	
Rep. Berg	✓		Rep. Meyer	✓	
Rep. Dosch	✓				
Rep. Pollert		✓	Rep. Ekstrom		✓
Rep. Bellew		✓	Rep. Kerzman	✓	
Rep. Kreidt		✓	Rep. Metcalf	✓	
Rep. Nelson	✓				
Rep. Wieland		✓			

Total (Yes) 16 No 8

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. <sup>Nansen</sup> Johnson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
March 24, 2009 3:12 p.m.

**Module No: HR-53-5720**  
**Carrier: N. Johnson**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2231: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(16 YEAS, 8 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2231 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

SB 2231



**Great Plains Food Bank Testimony**

**RE: Senate Bill 2231**

**Submitted by: Steve Sellent, Program Director**


**January 29, 2009**

# 1  
Testimony &  
handouts given  
to Senate Legprop. also.  
also House P.S.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify here today. My name is Steve Sellent and I serve as director of the Great Plains Food Bank. I support Senate Bill 2231 because I truly believe that for the first time in the history of North Dakota we have a realistic opportunity, and concrete plans, to create a virtually hunger-free state over the next several years. This Bill will help ensure that those plans become reality.

The Great Plains Food Bank serves a network of 217 food shelves, homeless shelters, soup kitchens and other charitable feeding programs in 82 North Dakota communities. Last year, we supplied these programs with 5.49 million pounds of food valued at almost \$8.2 million dollars. Over 95% of the food we distribute is donated, rather than purchased, with the vast majority (87%) being surplus food that would otherwise go to waste donated by the private food industry.


Food recovered and distributed by the Great Plains Food Bank helps feed more than 52,000 children, seniors and working families each year – or about 1 out of every 12 North Dakotans. Over 40% of those served at ND food pantries last year were children; whose entire lives can be impacted by hunger due to




diminished capacity to learn, which in turn can limit their potential and productivity as adults.


This past summer we completed the first ever comprehensive statewide study of the charitable feeding network in North Dakota titled *Creating A Hunger Free North Dakota*. We were privileged to have the Department of Commerce – Division of Community Service, USDA Human Nutrition Research Center, ND Community Action Programs and NDSU Extension Service as partners in the project.

A number of major trends led us to undertake the study, including:

- 
- ▶ demand for emergency food assistance that was growing faster than available food supplies;
  - ▶ changing demographics, including growing numbers of both working poor and seniors seeking services;
  - ▶ a significant shift in food donations from nonperishable boxed and canned food items to more perishable items such as produce, dairy and refrigerated meats;
  - ▶ and challenges with an aging volunteer force, funding, transportation and inadequate facilities and equipment at the local food shelf level.




But more than anything, we were driven to conduct this study because no one entity was looking at and addressing the complete picture of hunger in our state, and we felt that was a role that the Great Plains Food Bank was equipped for and ready to take on.



Four of the major findings from the study, and our proposed solutions to address those findings, are what bring us here today.


***Finding number 1:*** while we have a strong existing charitable feeding network, 29 counties were found to be underserved and geographic gaps in service continue to exist across the state.


***Proposed Solutions:*** Funding provided through this bill would assist in developing three new programs to bring additional food supplies into those underserved counties and fill geographical gaps in service:



1) A Mobile Food Pantry, basically a food pantry on wheels, to serve communities that don't have or can't support a traditional food pantry. We are currently piloting this program in three sites in central North Dakota. In December, almost 300 individuals received food for over 11,000 meals at those sites;

2) A Prepacked Food Box Program, where ready-made food boxes packed by volunteers at the food bank will be distributed through churches, senior providers or other entities in smaller rural communities in the state that might only need 20 or 30 food baskets a year. The study found that 28 counties only have a single food shelf, with many people having to travel 20, 30 or more miles one way to get a food basket. One-third of clients or potential clients identified transportation as a major barrier to receiving services, so we're going to try and bring the food to them instead;






3) A Rural Restock Program to bring more food more often to existing food pantries, which remain the backbone of our network, in under-served counties and rural communities across the state.


In all, we anticipate that these three programs will bring new services to, or expand services in, more than 100 communities throughout the state. Meetings and research have begun in 14 underserved counties in western North Dakota to determine how new services can best be delivered in those areas.

***Finding Number 2:*** Food shelf visits have increased by an alarming 42% over the past 5 years, while food supplies have only grown by 5%.



***Proposed Solutions:*** In order to increase food supplies available for distribution throughout the network, the Great Plains Food Bank proposes to:


- 1) Establish Food Rescue Programs in additional communities, similar to our successful Daily Bread program in the Fargo-Moorhead area, which recovers and distributes over one million pounds of surplus food each year from grocery stores, bakeries, schools, colleges, hospitals and food wholesalers;
- 2) Develop a Retail Store Pick-Up Program to recover surplus food from big-box retailers that now include groceries as part of their product mix. We're pleased to report that all 3 Sam's Clubs in the state and several Target stores are already on board, and the 10 ND Wal-Mart stores are expected to join the program in the next several months;



3) Add a Food Resource Manager position to secure additional food supplies from growers, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers across the state.


We project that these three initiatives will increase charitable food supplies in the state by 2.13 million pounds, or 44%, annually, providing more than 1.5 additional meals for our neighbors in need – most of which will come from surplus food that would otherwise go to waste.

***Finding Number 3:*** Community-based food pantries are experiencing volunteer shortages, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient funding, and lack of training and technical support.




***Proposed Solutions:*** For too long, many local community food pantries have been left without a support system to deal with problems, challenges or issues that they might encounter. We aim to correct that by providing training and networking opportunities, technical assistance in a variety of areas, grants for equipment and other critical needs, and ongoing staff support to improve and expand their services. We are pleased to report that 95% of our partner food shelves and other emergency providers have signed on in support of this Bill.


***Finding Number 4:*** There is a surprising low correlation between those using government assistance programs and those seeking assistance at charitable feeding programs.




**Proposed Solution:** In order to make those seeking assistance aware of all available private and government services they might need - whether it be food, employment, healthcare, housing or something else - we propose to develop a cross-referral system between charitable and government programs. By linking clients who use charitable feeding programs to government programs, we can help them move beyond the “band-aid” of short-term food assistance to programs that assist them down the road to self-sufficiency. Staff from 5 state departments are currently partnering with charitable programs in a new state-wide hunger task force that was established as a result of the study.



Why are we turning to the legislature for the first time in our 25 year history? The answer is straightforward. We can't do everything that needs to be accomplished to address hunger in our state alone.




After we developed cost projections for the new programs that are needed to address unmet hunger needs, we took a close look at our current revenue streams and what it would take to raise an additional \$800,000 for new programming while maintaining our current budget of almost \$3 million over the next two years. While we determined that we could raise a substantial amount, almost 60%, of the additional funding needed; we concluded that realistically we could not grow our revenue fast enough to fund each and every program. Since ignoring or putting off the needs of thousands of North Dakotans wasn't an option, we elected to approach the legislature as our only viable alternative option.




In respect to the legislature and all the other needs in our state, we worked hard to keep our request as low as possible - at well under half of the total operating budget for the proposed new programs and just 9% of our total budget for the biennium.


We are confident, based on 25 years of success, that we can not only leverage almost half-a-million dollars in private funding with a \$350,000 investment in these critical projects by the ND Legislature, but also more than \$5.6 million worth of donated food. That's over \$16.00 of food assistance for hungry North Dakotan's for every state dollar invested.




While that is a pretty good return on investment, the long-term dividends may be even greater. A recent study referred to in our proposal overview indicates that illness, lost educational opportunities and lowered productivity related to hunger cost our state almost \$159 million annually. So, in addition to almost 6 million dollars in current food assistance benefits, millions of additional dollars will be saved in future costs associated with the longer-term costs of hunger.

We know that sustainability and future funding requests are a major concern this legislative session. Because of the magnitude of the problem we are addressing, it will take us more than two years to implement all of the new programming needed. It is possible that we will elect to approach the legislature again next session for funding for additional new and/or expanded programming. But at the same time, we are willing to commit that any request next biennium will not





exceed the current request and that it will be for additional new programming – not to sustain ongoing programming. Once new programming has been established it is our intent to sustain it with private dollars as we have successfully done in the past.



Almost 30% of the 52,000 North Dakotans that seek charitable food assistance each year report that the amount of food they receive doesn't meet their needs. Thousands of additional people don't have access to services or aren't being reached by current programming. Together, we can make a huge dent in addressing these unmet needs and a huge difference in the lives of tens of thousands of North Dakotan's struggling to put food on the table. On behalf of all of those people, and the North Dakota charitable feeding network; thank you so much for your time and thoughtful consideration of our proposal.





# Great Plains Food Bank

## Addendum Directory

- |                 |          |  |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| <b>Addendum</b> | <b>A</b> | Great Plains Food Bank Legislative Proposal                          |
|                 | <b>B</b> | Great Plains Food Bank Proposed New Programming and Total Budget     |
|                 | <b>C</b> | Proposed New Programming Budget by Initiative                        |
|                 | <b>D</b> | List of North Dakota Emergency Feeding Programs in Support of SB2231 |

# Great Plains Food Bank

Lutheran Social Services of ND

## Taking Action to Address Hunger Needs Across North Dakota



The Great Plains Food Bank, a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, supplies a network of **217** charitable feeding programs (i.e. food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters) operating in **82** communities across North Dakota with more than **5.5 million** pounds of donated product recovered from the local, regional and national food industry. This donated food is then used to help feed more than **52,000** low income children, seniors and working families each year. For **25** years, the Great Plains Food Bank has been working diligently toward our vision of a hunger-free North Dakota.

**1 in 12** use the charitable feeding network - **40%** are children.

### The Current State of North Dakota's Charitable Feeding Network

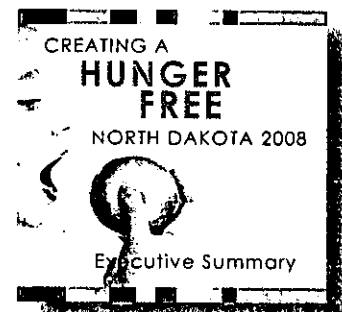
In June, 2008 the Great Plains Food Bank released an unprecedented study of North Dakota's charitable feeding network. Entitled *Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota 2008*, major findings include:

- ▶ While North Dakota has a strong existing charitable feeding network, 29 counties remain under-served and gaps in service continue to exist statewide;
- ▶ Food shelf visits statewide have increased 42% over the past five years, while food supplies have only grown 5%;
- ▶ Community-based food pantries are experiencing volunteer shortages, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient funding, and lack of training and technical assistance support;
- ▶ There is a surprisingly low correlation between those using government nutrition assistance programs and those seeking assistance at charitable feeding programs.

#### Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Study Partners

Great Plains Food Bank  
USDA Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center  
North Dakota Department of Commerce  
NDSU Extension Service  
North Dakota Community Action Partnership

This study can be accessed at [www.lssnd.org/GreatPlainsFoodBank](http://www.lssnd.org/GreatPlainsFoodBank)



## Solutions to Address Unmet Needs



*"There are many days I go without fruit or milk because I don't have the money. When I got a basket from the food pantry in my community, I could have cried. It had cans of applesauce and apricots, two of my favorites. Thank You."*

*Naomi, age 78*

- ▶ **To target under-served counties and eliminate gaps in service, the Great Plains Food Bank is developing:**

Mobile Food Pantry: A pantry on wheels that distributes food in communities that don't have, or can't support, a traditional pantry.

Prepacked Food Box Program: Ready made food boxes distributed through churches, senior service providers or other sites in the smallest, most rural communities of our state.

Rural Restock Program: Additional food shipments delivered to food pantries in under-served counties and rural communities across the state.

- ▶ **To increase food supplies available for distribution, the Great Plains Food Bank will be implementing:**

Food Rescue Programs: Recover surplus perishable and prepared foods that would otherwise go to waste from grocery stores, colleges, hospitals and food wholesalers.

Retail Store Pick-up Program: Recover surplus food from big-box retailers that include groceries as part of their product mix.

Food Resource Manager: Add a statewide staff person to the Great Plains Food Bank team to secure new sources of food.

- ▶ **To strengthen local feeding programs, the Great Plains Food Bank plans to offer training, technical assistance and re-grant opportunities for agency infrastructure and critical needs.**
- ▶ **To improve the linkage between government and charitable assistance programs, the Great Plains Food Bank proposes a cross-referral system (for employment, healthcare, housing, legal services and food assistance) to help clients achieve self-sufficiency.**

## Projected Outcomes

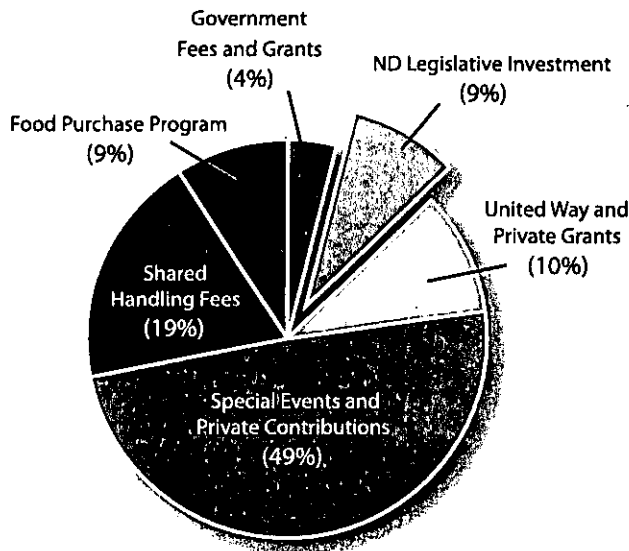
- ▶ The number of under-served counties will be reduced by 72% from 29 to 8; while the number of communities with charitable feeding programs will almost double from 83 to 160.
- ▶ Food supplies will grow by 44%, adding 1.56 million meals for children, families and seniors annually.
- ▶ 75% of providers will report adequate infrastructure; half will have attended regional trainings.
- ▶ 75% of all local feeding programs will provide clients with referrals to federal nutrition programs and mainstream resources.

# Request of North Dakota Legislature: 2009-2011 Biennium

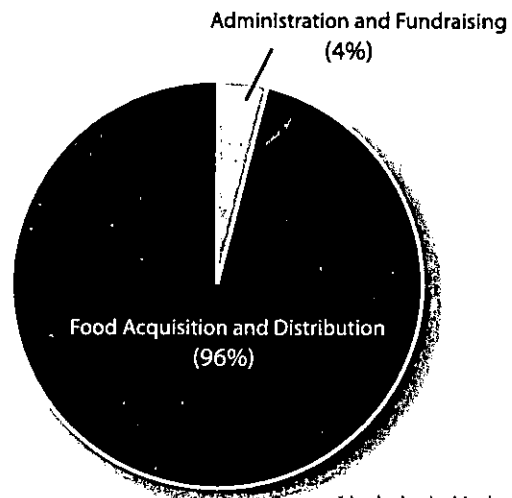
The Great Plains Food Bank is requesting \$350,000 in financial support from the State of North Dakota for purpose of addressing gaps in service, increasing food supplies, strengthening the capacity of local food providers, and enhancing the connection between federal nutrition programs and the charitable feeding sector. For every state dollar allocated, the Great Plains Food Bank can provide more than \$16.25 worth of food because these efforts utilize donated, rather than purchased product.

<b>FY 2010 - 2011 Budget</b> (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011)	<b>Proposed New Programs</b>	<b>Great Plains Food Bank Total</b>
Operating Expenses	\$817,230	\$3,712,970
Value of Donated Food	\$5,687,900	\$22,146,980
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$6,505,130</b>	<b>\$25,859,950</b>
<b>Investment by ND Legislature</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	

Great Plains Food Bank  
FY 2010-2011 Revenue



Great Plains Food Bank  
FY 2010-2011 Expenses \*



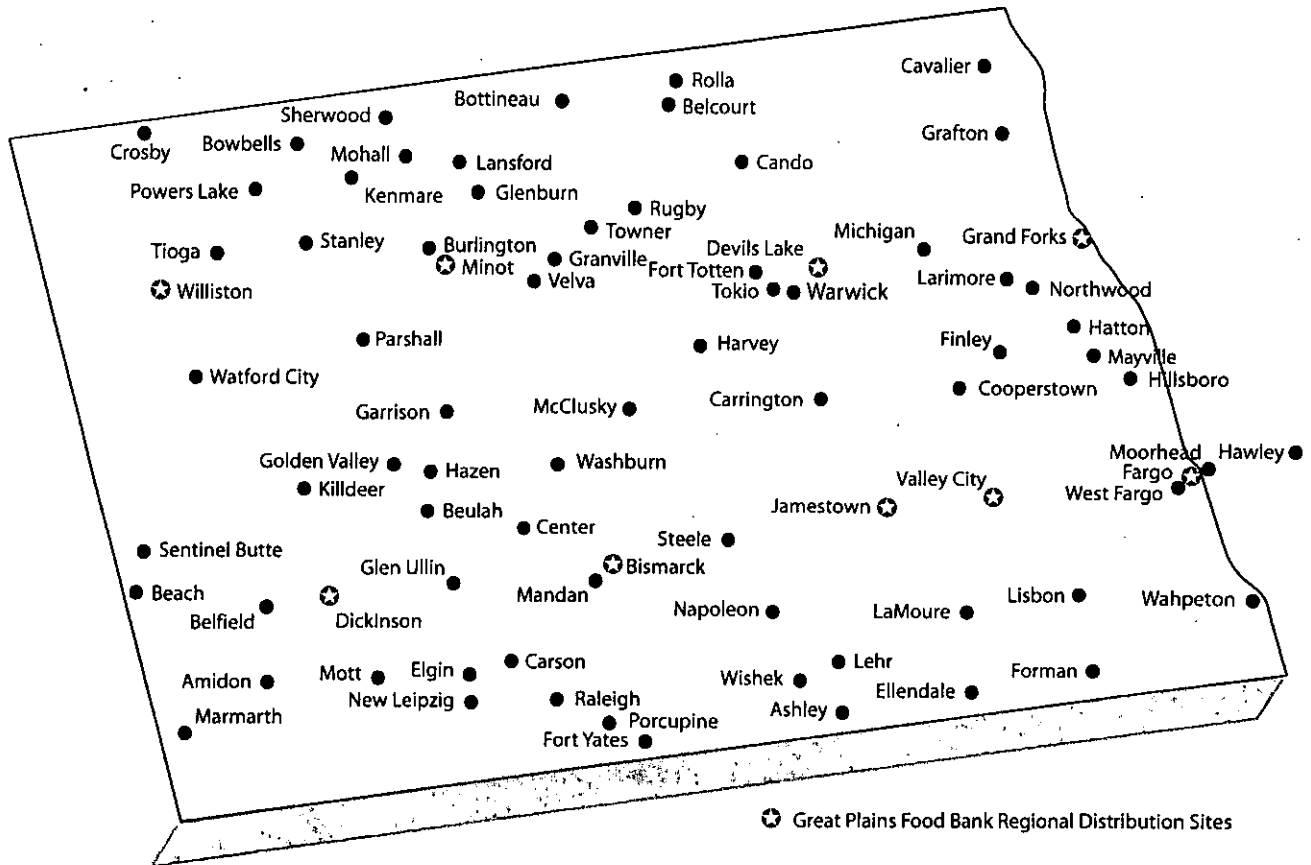
\* Includes in-kind value of donated product distributed

## Program Sustainability Statement:

The Great Plains Food Bank has a long history of strong private sector support. Funding from the legislature this biennium will be used to help develop the new programs and activities outlined on page two in order to begin addressing gaps in service and bulding the capacity of the charitable feeding network. Because of the magnitude of the problem, in order to complete our four-year plan to address unmet hunger needs in the state, it is likely we will seek support again next biennium (not to exceed the current request) to develop further new and/or expanded programming, but not for ongoing support for activities funded this bienium. Once new programming has been established it is our intent to sustain it with private dollars, as we have successfully done in the past.

# Great Plains Food Bank Partner Network

217 Charitable Feeding Providers Operating in 82 Communities Statewide



*"When Jeremy got sick we didn't know how we were going to pay all the bills. But with our garden and the food baskets received from the pantry, we were able to make ends meet. Thank You!"*

*Todd, Nicole and Jeremy*

## Economic Impact of Hunger in North Dakota

While thousands of North Dakotans feel the physical pains of hunger, everyone in the state feels the economic effects. A recent study estimated the annual burden of hunger in the United States totals \$76 billion annually for the direct and indirect costs of hunger-related illness and psychosocial dysfunction, lost educational opportunities and lowered productivity.

These costs are borne by all North Dakotans. Distributed on an individual basis, it means that on average each person pays \$250 annually for the hunger bill, and almost \$625 per household. This equates to a total annual hunger cost of almost \$159 million for North Dakota.

Reference: Brown, J. Larry, Shepard, Donald, Martin, Timothy, Orwat, John, *The Economic Cost of Domestic Hunger: Estimated Annual Burden to the United States*, June 5, 2007.

**Great Plains Food Bank**  
**FY 2010 - FY 2011 Budget**  
 (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011)

	Proposed New Programming	Total Budget
<b>Revenue</b>		
Individual Contributions	180,730	1,357,300
Organization Contributions	3,000	20,821
Corporate Contributions	40,000	282,923
Church Contributions	13,500	58,584
Special Projects	10,000	69,405
United Way	10,000	103,414
Private Grants	195,000	245,000
Food Handling Fees	0	715,086
Food Purchase Program	0	341,578
Government Fees & Grants	15,000	154,750
State of North Dakota	350,000	350,000
Rent/Miscellaneous Income	0	14,109
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$817,230</b>	<b>\$3,712,970</b>

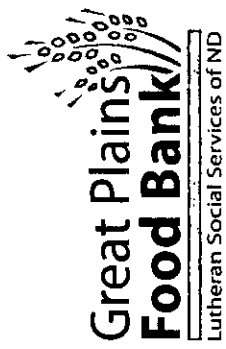
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries	301,458	986,899
Benefits	99,383	309,820
Professional Fees	7,488	15,146
Food Acquisition Fees	0	203,674
Food Purchase Program	0	297,024
Office/Misc Supplies	2,383	9,756
Warehouse Supplies	23,367	58,147
Telephone Service	4,635	22,052
Postage	4,473	40,328
Printing	8,035	69,998
Utilities	0	110,323
Building Repair/Maintenance	0	38,189
Allocated Occupancy Costs	0	-54,962
Property/Other Insurance	874	17,442
Commercial Freight	0	38,189
Commercial Storage & Handling	3,744	4,805
Fuel	67,050	145,704
Truck Repair/Maintenance	14,368	33,948
Truck Insurance & License	33,056	58,303
Equipment/Rent/Repair	7,913	49,019
Mileage/Vehicle Rental	28,038	47,253
Hotel & Meals	17,281	27,814
Meeting Expense	0	3,945
Conference/Staff Development	1,407	14,062
Partner Agency Grants	50,000	50,000
Fundraising Expenses	22,211	484,189
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,230	12,360
Depreciation	28,571	198,140
LSS Administrative Services	88,265	421,403
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$817,230</b>	<b>\$3,712,970</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Great Plains Food Bank**  
**Proposed New Programming Budget**  
**FY 2010 - FY 2011 Budget**  
**(July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011)**

	Increase Food Supplies	Address Gaps In Service	Build Partner Capacity	Link Gov & Charitable Programs	Total New Programs
<b>Revenue</b>					
Individual Contributions	110,963	18,801	35,483	15,483	180,730
Organization Contributions	2,500	500	0	0	3,000
Corporate Contributions	30,000	5,000	5,000	0	40,000
Church Contributions	6,000	7,500	0	0	13,500
Special Projects	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
United Way	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Private Grants	110,000	40,000	20,000	25,000	195,000
Government Fees & Grants	12,500	2,500	0	0	15,000
State of North Dakota	175,000	85,000	60,000	30,000	350,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$466,963</b>	<b>\$159,301</b>	<b>\$120,483</b>	<b>\$70,483</b>	<b>\$817,230</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries	181,730	50,108	34,810	34,810	301,458
Benefits	61,694	16,977	10,356	10,356	99,383
Professional Fees	7,488	0	0	0	7,488
Office/Misc Supplies	853	510	510	510	2,383
Warehouse Supplies	9,827	13,540	0	0	23,367
Telephone Service	2,539	382	857	857	4,635
Postage	2,413	1,080	490	490	4,473
Printing	5,689	306	1,020	1,020	8,035
Property/Other Insurance	874	0	0	0	874
Commercial Stge&Handling	3,744	0	0	0	3,744
Fuel	35,890	25,040	3,060	3,060	67,050
Truck Repair/Maintenance	9,340	5,028	0	0	14,368
Truck Insurance & License	28,020	5,036	0	0	33,056
Equipment/Rent/Repair	2,813	408	2,346	2,346	7,913
Mileage/Vehicle Rental	10,355	8,707	4,488	4,488	28,038
Hotel & Meals	1,913	6,800	4,284	4,284	17,281
Conf/Staff Development	855	246	153	153	1,407
Partner Agency Grants	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
Fundraising Expenses	15,793	6,418	0	0	22,211
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,841	389	0	0	3,230
Depreciation	28,571	0	0	0	28,571
LSS Administrative Services	53,721	18,326	8,109	8,109	88,265
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$466,963</b>	<b>\$159,301</b>	<b>\$120,483</b>	<b>\$70,483</b>	<b>\$817,230</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**List of ND Emergency Feeding Programs  
in Support of  
SB 2231**



<b>Barnes County</b> Barnes County Food Pantry Valley City Cares	Valley City Valley City	<b>Dickey County</b> Ellendale Community Food Pantry	Ellendale
<b>Benson County</b> Spirit Lake Ministry Center Community Nourishment	Tokio Tokio	<b>Divide County</b> Divide County Food Pantry	Crosby
<b>Bottineau County</b> Bottineau Food Pantry Lansford Food Pantry	Bottineau Lansford	<b>Dunn County</b> Dunn County Social Services	
<b>Burke County</b> Powers Lake Food Pantry Society of St. Stephens	Powers Lake Bowbells	<b>Foster County</b> Carrington's Daily Bread	Carrington
<b>Burleigh County</b> Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC) AID, Inc. Community Action Program Region VII Crystal River Ministry Center Faith Center Helping Hand Food Pantry Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, Inc. Salvation Army Youthworks	Bismarck Bismarck Bismarck Bismarck Bismarck Bismarck Bismarck Bismarck Bismarck	<b>Golden Valley County</b> Beach Community Food Pantry	Beach
<b>Cass County</b> 1st Assembly of God Food Pantry All Nations Assemblies of God Bosnian & Herzegovinian Community Diversity Development Food Program Dorothy Day West Emergency Food Pantry Family Worship Center Food Pantry Gladys Ray Shelter New Life Center Salvation Army SENDCAA – Self-Reliance Program Youthworks YWCA Shelter of Cass-Clay	Fargo West Fargo Fargo Fargo West Fargo Fargo Fargo Fargo Fargo Fargo Fargo Fargo Fargo Fargo	<b>Grand Forks County</b> Community Emergency Food Pantry Northlands Rescue Mission Northwood ELCA Food Pantry Red River Valley Community Action Salvation Army	Larimore Grand Forks Northwood Grand Forks Grand Forks
		<b>Grant County</b> Grant County Food Pantry New Leipzig Food Pantry	Carson New Leipzig
		<b>Griggs County</b> Bread of Life Food Pantry	Cooperstown
		<b>Hettinger County</b> Mott Food Pantry	Mott
		<b>Kidder County</b> Kidder County Food Pantry	Steele
		<b>Logan County</b> Logan County Social Services	Napoleon
		<b>McHenry County</b> Velva Community Food Pantry Sandhills Community Health Food Pantry McHenry County Food Pantry	Velva Towner Granville







**Instosh County**  
 Our Lions Club  
 Wishek Food Pantry

**McKenzie County**  
 McKenzie County Food Pantry

**McLean County**  
 McLean Family Resource Center

**Mercer County**  
 Golden Valley Food Pantry  
 Hazen Food Pantry

**Morton County**  
 Abundance of Grace Food Pantry  
 AID, Inc.  
 Glen Ullin Community Food Pantry

**Mountrail County**  
 Mountrail Community Food Pantry  
 Parshall Food Pantry

**Nelson County**  
 Michigan Food Pantry

**Pembina County**  
 Pembina County Emergency Food Pantry

**Pierce County**  
 Pierce County Food Pantry

**Ramsey County**  
 Dakota Prairie Community Action

**Ransom County**  
 Ransom County Food Pantry

**Renville County**  
 Glenburn Food Pantry  
 Sherwood Food Pantry  
 Zion Food Pantry

**Richland County**  
 Richland-Wilkin Emergency Food Pantry

**Rollette County**  
 Dakota Prairie Community Action  
 Turtle Mountain Chippewa Food Pantry  
 Turtle Mountain Food Pantry



**Urgent County**  
 Urgent County Food Pantry

**Sheridan County**  
 Sheridan County Food Pantry

**Sioux County**  
 Catholic Indian Mission

**Slope County**  
 Salvation Army  
 Salvation Army

**Stark County**  
 Amen Food Pantry  
 Belfield – Medora Food Pantry  
 Prairie Rose Center  
 St. Wenceslaus Food Pantry

**Steele County**  
 Steele County Food Pantry

**Stutsman County**  
 Community Action Region VI  
 Salvation Army

**Towner County**  
 Cando Area Food Pantry

**Trail County**  
 Hatton Helping Hand  
 Hillsboro Kiwanis Food Pantry  
 May-Port Food Pantry

**Walsh County**  
 Walsh County Food Pantry

**Ward County**  
 Burlington Community Food Pantry  
 Community Action Partnership  
 Kenmare Food Pantry  
 Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry  
 Salvation Army  
 The Lord's Cupboard (FUMC)

**Wells County**  
 Central Dakota Ministerial Association

**Williams County**  
 First Lutheran Church  
 Salvation Army



Forman

McClusky

Ft. Yates

Amidon  
 Mammoth

Dickinson  
 Belfield  
 Dickinson  
 Dickinson

Finley

Jamestown  
 Jamestown

Cando

Hatton  
 Hillsboro  
 Portland

Grafton

Burlington  
 Minot  
 Kenmare  
 Minot  
 Minot  
 Minot

Harvey

Tioga  
 Williston

# Hornbacher's.

January 26, 2009

*Same given to  
Senate Approp. +  
House Pol. Subcs.*

Dear Chairman Andrist and Members of the Political Subdivisions Committee:

On behalf of Hornbacher's Foods, I support SB2231 because it redirects quality and nutritious food product which would have otherwise gone to waste, to hungry children, seniors and working families.

Hornbacher's was one of the first participating merchants to join the Great Plains Food Bank's Daily Bread program when it began in 1992. The program provided us with a safe and efficient method to donate food products that were still nutritious and wholesome for human consumption, but did not meet our standards for sale to our customers.

Prior to the start of the Daily Bread program, we were donating some of this type of product (mostly dated bakery goods) to several different agencies with mixed results; pick-up was inconsistent and often done by volunteers that had little or no food handling experience. Daily Bread allowed us to expand our donations to other departments including deli and produce, giving us the opportunity to offer greater volumes of food to those in need.

We participate in the program because we believe it does much to help provide food for those in need. Feeding the hungry has, for a long time, been one of our primary charitable efforts. We have provided both funds and product to several different agencies over the years, including Daily Bread, The Salvation Army, Churches United for the Homeless, The Emergency Food Panty of Fargo-Moorhead and The Dorothy Day House. A secondary, but still important reason we participate in the Daily Bread program, is that it keeps product from going into our garbage and being sent to the landfill.

All six of our stores participate in the perishable food recovery program. In 2008, Hornbacher's contributed 566,854 pounds of food to Daily Bread. Without the coordinated pick-up by trained food safety drivers the vast majority of this product would simply be destroyed.

I wholeheartedly endorse and encourage other food merchants, both grocers and restaurateurs, to participate in a program such as Daily Bread. I know it provides great benefits for both the recipient and merchant. If someone asked me, "Why participate", my answer would be, "Why not?"



Dean Hornbacher, President  
Hornbacher's Foods  
4151 45<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Fargo, ND 58104  
(701) 293-3566

Roger Johnson  
Agriculture Commissioner  
www.agdepartment.com



Phone (701) 328-2231  
Toll Free (800) 242-7535  
Fax (701) 328-4567

600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020  
*Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services*

**Testimony of Sue B. Balcom  
Local Foods Marketing Specialist  
ND Dept of Agriculture  
SB 2231  
Senate Political Subdivision committee  
Red River Room  
January 29, 2009**

*Same given  
to House  
Pol. Sub.*

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Chairman Andrist and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Sue Balcom, the local foods marketing specialist for the ND Dept of Agriculture.

I am before you today on behalf of the Department of Agriculture in support of SB 2231 which would offer financial assistance to the North Dakota Department of Human Services to contract a provider for statewide charitable food distribution. The bill would also address gaps in services and other options for North Dakota's charitable emergency feeding network.

Hunger is an issue in North Dakota.

According to a report in August of 2008 analyzing the states charitable feeding network:

**1 in 12 North Dakotans seek emergency food assistance each year.**

**Nearly half of those seeking help are children.**

Statistics from the National Center for Children in Poverty state the federal poverty level for a family of four is \$21,200. In North Dakota 14 percent, or 19,879 children, live in families that make this amount or less. The national average is 18 percent. But research suggests that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty level to meet their basic needs.

As small towns continue to struggle to keep grocery stores open or to find volunteers to distribute food from local pantries staffed by an ever aging population, it has become imperative that we develop new ways to address hunger in our state.

Local food initiatives are just that – food produced locally. Rather than rely on trucking food great distances at the risk of losing more than just freshness, nutrition and fossil fuel, we need to begin using our agricultural resources and should be growing and eating more of our own food.

Local food initiatives in our communities, such as school and community garden programs, have been strongly encouraged by our department as a way to double consumption of fresh vegetables, as recommended by new dietary standards, and create the economic opportunity to encourage production on our family farms.

Bringing all counties up to a minimum service level would require a relatively small increase in food provided; meeting full service levels would require a 30 percent increase; while creating a hunger-free North Dakota would require almost doubling the current food resources to 9.1 million pounds. The goal is not just to feed people, but actually provide fresh and nutritious foods, as well as the recipes, cooking, gardening advice, canning skills and social interaction that will strengthen our communities and ultimately strengthen our state's population.

This bill could provide the key elements to reaching everyone who needs help, no matter what the distance.

Community connections must be made. In spite of the electronic communication we have through computers, cell phones and blackberries, our small towns, especially in the western portion of the state, are becoming farther and farther apart. That makes distribution of fresh food in a timely manner to these areas critical. We need to address this issue with new and innovative ideas.

There's also the issue of potential waste. Americans waste an estimated 27 percent of the food available for consumption, according to a government study – that works out to about a pound of food every day for every American.

If some of that food could be rescued before spoiling, and transported quickly to households, think of the potential to support a system of declining food pantry donations and increasing demand for groceries.

In light of ever increasing food costs America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network - a group of more than 200 food banks- reports that donations of food are down nine percent, but the number of people showing up for food has increased 20 percent. The group distributes more than two billion pounds of donated and recovered food and consumer products each year.

Because of these reasons, I urge you to give a "do pass" to SB 2231.

Thank you, Chairman Andrist and members of the Senate Political Subdivision Committee, for your time today. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.



January 29, 2009

Testimony  
SB 2231

Chairman Cook and Members of the Political Subdivisions Committee:

Good morning. I am Karen Ehrens, a Licensed Registered Dietitian, and I am here today on behalf of the 280 members of the North Dakota Dietetic Association (NDDA) in support of SB 2231, which would help meet the gaps in our charitable feeding program with new delivery systems and enhance efforts to help people be able to feed themselves.

The North Dakota Dietetic Association, with a mission to support the public through the promotion of optimal nutrition, health and well-being, believes that systematic and sustained action is needed to bring an end to food insecurity and hunger. Both immediate interventions, such as mobile food pantries and food baskets, and long-range interventions are needed. Interventions include adequate funding for and increased utilization of food and nutrition assistance programs, the inclusion of food and nutrition education in all programs providing food and nutrition assistance, and innovative programs to promote and support the economic self-sufficiency of individuals and families, to end food insecurity and hunger in North Dakota, the United States and the world.

We support efforts to make it easier to access adequate foods for the following reasons:

North Dakota growers feed the world, yet 6.4 percent of North Dakotans are food insecure, including the 13,656 children living in households that are food insecure.

The consequences of food insecurity are grave and can lead to illness and the development of chronic disease, fatigue, psychological issues like stress and disturbances in families.

Food insecurity hits at our most vulnerable populations: children and seniors. Food insecurity can lead to poorer performance in school and more illness, meaning more days missed from the school year. Older adults who experience food insecurity are more likely to have lower intakes of key nutrients necessary for leading healthy and fully functioning lives.

The North Dakota Dietetic Association is a partner in the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Task Force. We are just beginning to expand current partnerships and networks in the state to work more effectively together to help eliminate hunger. One example of this is the *Going Local North Dakota* Initiative of the ND Department of Agriculture. Building local food systems is a crucial step in helping to achieve food security. We are beginning to link farmers' markets, community gardens, and farm-to-school programs to charitable feeding programs.

Please consider passing this legislation and authorizing funding for this effort to bring enhanced support for partnerships between public programs and charitable networks. This is an opportunity to help achieve food and nutrition security for all North Dakotans.

**Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 2231  
By Ann Pollert, Executive Director  
North Dakota Community Action Partnership  
January 29, 2009**

*Same given  
to Senate Approp. #2*

Chair Andrist and members of the committee, for the record my name is Ann Pollert and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Community Action Partnership representing the seven North Dakota Community Action Agencies. Community Action Agencies are in favor of the SB2231 because of the impact it would have on lower income households that are struggling to meet their daily food needs.

Community Action Agencies serve all 53 counties throughout North Dakota. Community Action Agencies are nonprofit private organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on Poverty. Community Action administers an array of programs such as Head start, Weatherization, Case Management, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance all directed at helping lower income individuals and families increase their self sufficiency.

For over 30 years Community Action Agencies across North Dakota have helped lower income families struggling to meet their basic food needs. We would not be able to provide this service to our clients without the Great Plains Food Bank supplying us with the food and other resources. Across North Dakota, Community Action Agencies sponsor dozens of food pantries supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank. It is safe to say that many of the Community Action sponsored pantries would not be in operation without the Food Bank. We depend on their support and look



to them to obtain the majority of food and other grocery items that are distributed in the food baskets. We also utilize their products for the backpack for kids program which is administered by our Bismarck agency. The Great Plains Food Bank provides us with a lot of the food included in these backpacks (hold up sample). These types of backpacks are distributed to 220 Bismarck children each Friday that are homeless. The estimated value of the food in this backpack is \$8.00. If we secured these items from a retail outlet, it would cost over \$1700 per week. It's because of the food product that has been donated to the food bank and passed on to us, that we are able to offer this valuable service. The Great Plains Food Bank is also a great resource of information and answers a lot of training and technical assistance questions for Community Action agencies. Staff at the Great Plains Food Bank is very knowledgeable about expiration dates, safe food handling, available funding resources, and volunteer recruitment.

Our Bismarck Agency, (Community Action Program Region VII) has been fortunate to be the "pilot" region for the Great Plains Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry program. Through this program together we are able to get food into rural communities that are very much underserved. Basically, we advertise when the mobile pantry is coming and residents meet at the location and receive a box which includes about 40 pounds of food. They receive a box for each person in their household. So far there have been 4 drops in McLean County and two each in Oliver and Sheridan. There are food pantries in each of these regions however distance and availability is an obstacle and the food pantries that already exist are not able to fill the need. The mobile food pantry is a great resource because it brings food into

the community at a limited expense. A mobile food pantry can sometimes be much more cost efficient for a community, often times in rural communities it is difficult to start a new pantry due to finding space, paying rent on the space, securing volunteers, and securing financial support to purchase food.

Community Action is also very excited about the Great Plains Food Bank's desire to expand perishable food recovery programs in other areas of the state. Very seldom do the pantries receive any fresh perishables and when they do, clients are very excited and thankful. Just like us, I think clients want to eat healthy, and often find it difficult to do so on what they are able to afford to what they receive from a food pantry. The majority of food given at pantries is canned, frozen or boxed as well as often high in fat and calories. It is a treat for clients to receive fresh produce. Providers very seldom have any resources to purchase fresh food for their pantries.

I want to talk a little more about the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota study. Community Action was proud to be part of this project, the information gathered confirms the needs through the state. As Steve mentioned, there really has not been a lot of research on hunger in North Dakota. Each Community Action across the state will continue to work with the Great Plains Food Bank as they look at resources and develop a plan of action to address each region individually. This process has already began in Region 7—Bismarck, Region 1—Williston and Region 8—Dickinson. The Great Plains Food Bank understands how each region is unique, has different resources, and in some cases a different culture or attitude. They along with Community Action and other hunger-relief partners will work to develop a

plan that fits each region and the needs of the communities within that region by working directly with the providers in that region. We know that the providers need to be a key part of the in the plan of action, we feel that understanding their needs and listening to their requests is the initial step of developing a successful plan for each region. Collaboratively, we really do hope to Create a Hunger Free ND!

In closing, again, I am proud to support SB2231 and hope that you look favorably upon the Great Plains Food Bank's request. I was part of the client focus groups that were held as part of the study and vividly remember one participant sharing with us that she sent her kids to the neighbors because then she knew that they would be fed....lets all work together to create a hunger free North Dakota.

This completes my testimony, and would like to open for any questions.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you.

Senate Bill No. 2231

Written Testimony  
Susan Martin, Executive Director  
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House  
January 29, 2009

*Same given  
to Senate Appropri.*

My name is Susan Martin and I am the Executive Director of Ruth Meiers Hospitality House located in Bismarck, North Dakota. Ruth Meiers is a non-profit organization best known in our community as a homeless shelter with the capacity to provide emergency housing to 60 men, women and children.

Along with providing three meals a day to the residents of our shelters, we also offer a soup kitchen four days a week to anyone who wishes to have a nutritious noon meal. Many of our soup kitchen guests are on fixed incomes and many are elderly. In 2008 the soup kitchen provided 7,396 meals – up 763 meals from 2007. In a recent survey of our soup kitchen guests 53% of them said that the meal they eat at the soup kitchen is the only warm meal they eat that day; and 62% said that the soup kitchen helps to supplement their income by making their food dollars stretch at home. The increase in recovery of surplus perishable and prepared foods that would be made available from this legislation would greatly benefit us in stretching our agency dollars in order to provide meals for the soup kitchen guests.

Our soup kitchen operates on a very limited budget and except for one half-time employee is staffed by volunteers. Repairs that we must do to our freezers and equipment for the soup kitchen are a hardship to our budget. An increase in grant opportunities for agency infrastructure made available from this legislation would lessen the burden on our

agency and make it possible to purchase new equipment rather than repairing the same equipment over and over.

Ruth Meiers also provides food baskets to members of our community who need help with their food needs at home. In 2008 we gave out 513 food baskets - equaling approximately 21,430 pounds of food. In the summer of 2008 we saw many new people coming to us for food baskets. These people were working, however, with the high gas prices and increased cost of food at the grocery store they were not able to make ends meet. Having to make a decision whether to pay their electric bill or buy food for their family is not a decision that anyone should have to make.

The pantry shelves at Ruth Meiers are sometimes low. During these times we feel we must keep enough food on hand to feed the residents of our homeless shelters, but that means we are not able to give out the food baskets. In the summer of 2008, the Great Plains Food Bank and Ruth Meiers were able to partner with Sam's Club in Bismarck to recover their surplus food. That partnership has been wonderful. The amount of food we get three times a week from Sam's has enabled us to provide meat, baked goods and deli items to people receiving our food boxes. Additional partnerships with retailers to recover surplus food would increase the food supply pantries have available for distribution statewide.

Ruth Meiers Hospitality House supports Senate Bill No. 2231 and legislation that would expand the recovery of surplus food, provide equipment grants to community food programs and strengthen the network of charitable feeding programs in the state of North Dakota.



February 4, 2009

Testimony  
SB 2231

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Good morning. I am Karen Ehrens, a Licensed Registered Dietitian, and I am here today on behalf of the over 300 members of the North Dakota Dietetic Association (NDDA) in support of SB 2231, which would help meet the gaps in our charitable feeding program with new delivery systems and enhance efforts to help people be able to feed themselves.

The North Dakota Dietetic Association, with a mission to support the public through the promotion of optimal nutrition, health and well-being, believes that systematic and sustained action is needed to bring an end to food insecurity and hunger. Both immediate interventions, such as mobile food pantries and food baskets, and long-range interventions are needed. Interventions include adequate funding for and increased utilization of food and nutrition assistance programs, the inclusion of food and nutrition education in all programs providing food and nutrition assistance, and innovative programs to promote and support the economic self-sufficiency of individuals and families, to end food insecurity and hunger in North Dakota, the United States and the world.

We support efforts to help people access adequate foods for the following reasons:

North Dakota growers feed the world, yet 6.4 percent of North Dakotans are food insecure, including the 13,656 children living in households that are food insecure.

The consequences of food insecurity are grave and can lead to illness and the development of chronic disease, fatigue, psychological issues like stress and disturbances in families.

Food insecurity hits at our most vulnerable populations: children and seniors. Food insecurity can lead to poorer performance in school and more illness, meaning more days missed from the school year. Older adults who experience food insecurity are more likely to have lower intakes of key nutrients necessary for leading healthy and fully functioning lives.

The North Dakota Dietetic Association is a partner in the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Task Force. We are just beginning to expand current partnerships and networks in the state to work more effectively together to help eliminate hunger. One example of this is the *Going Local North Dakota* Initiative of the ND Department of Agriculture. Building local food systems is a crucial step in helping to achieve food security. We are beginning to link farmers' markets, community gardens, and farm-to-school programs to charitable feeding programs.

Please consider authorizing funding this investment on the public side of this public/private partnership which will help all North Dakotans achieve food and nutrition security.

2

*Same to  
House Pol.  
Sub.*

I am here today to speak on behalf of my family, and all of those who could not be here today to describe the benefits of the mobile food pantry.

My name is Carl Young, I am a proud parent and father of five children. Currently I am working to finish a PhD in Information Technology. My wife teaches part time for the White Shield School. We reside in Garrison, McClean County. We do get food staples from the mobile food pantry, however we get much more than food. We get the joy of community sharing. Every other month, the mobile food pantry makes a trip through our little town. We get people from all over McClean County who make the trip to get food for their loved ones, neighbors and themselves. McClean County/Garrison and the Food Bank don't have the resources necessary to house an actual food bank in our community. We had one, but the volunteer retired, and now we make do with the mobile pantry.

I have had the joy of assisting with the delivery of the food staples from the mobile food pantry. It is incredibly heart-warming to see the joy that a box food, case of bottled water and can of juice can bring to someone. For those who are unable to gather their own food, there is any number of people ready able and willing to help get the food to them. We have people pulling their food home on sleds, in wagons, and using normal vehicles.

I can't imagine what happens during the time between deliveries. My family and I wonder if people have enough to eat. We wonder if there is someone going hungry in an effort to stretch their food dollar. Sure, we can get food assistance from social services, and most of us probably do. However, with the cost of fuel as high as it was, stretching that grocery dollar has become even more important to all of us. Even with the high cost of fuel, the food bank made deliveries this past year. I applaud their efforts.

For the past three years, I have seen the efforts of the Great Plains Food Bank. I recently retired after three years on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Slope Areawide United Way. We allocated funds to the Food Bank annually to support the work that they do. However, in these tough economic times, stronger funding needs to be in place. I urge all of you to support the Food Bank in their endeavors. It means the difference between a meal and hunger for some people.

We are expecting our next delivery the first week in February, and I invite each of you to come to Garrison and experience the delivery, as it is truly a moving experience. Weather permitting, the truck will get through. Thank you – Carl Young – [carl@clientfactor.com](mailto:carl@clientfactor.com)

1-26-2009

#1

## SB 2231

Chairman Wrangham, members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Tom Fiebiger, Senator, District 45 – Fargo. I appear today in support of SB 2231.

Great Plains Food Bank, in partnership with its statewide network of hunger relief providers, has introduced this legislation to address gaps in service, increase food supplies, strengthen the capacity of local food providers, and enhance the connection between federal nutrition programs and the charitable feeding sector.

My understanding is that SB 2231 will expand service to 80 new communities who currently do not have hunger relief providers – more than doubling the current capacity. SB 2231 will provide 1.5 million additional meals to North Dakota seniors, children and working parents during this economic downturn. It will also provide \$16 worth of food assistance for every state dollar allocated through this legislation.

The fact remains food shelf visits statewide have increased 42% over the last five years, while food supplies have only grown 5%. One in twelve persons use the charitable feeding network – and 40% of those are children. In this great agricultural state of North Dakota, no child or any citizen should be hungry.

Others with specific knowledge and information will testify and provide the committee with more detailed and specific information. SB 2231 will help us move toward a hunger free North Dakota. I urge you to give SB 2231 a DO PASS recommendation.



#4

Senate Bill No. 2231

Written Testimony  
Susan Martin, Executive Director  
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House  
March 12, 2009

My name is Susan Martin and I am the Executive Director of Ruth Meiers Hospitality House located in Bismarck, North Dakota. Ruth Meiers is a non-profit organization best known in our community as a homeless shelter with the capacity to provide emergency housing to 60 men, women and children.

Along with providing three meals a day to the residents of our shelters, we also offer a soup kitchen four days a week to anyone who wishes to have a nutritious noon meal. Many of our soup kitchen guests are on fixed incomes and many are elderly. In 2008 the soup kitchen provided 7,396 meals – up 763 meals from 2007. In a recent survey of our soup kitchen guests 53% of them said that the meal they eat at the soup kitchen is the only warm meal they eat that day; and 62% said that the soup kitchen helps to supplement their income by making their food dollars stretch at home. The increase in recovery of surplus perishable and prepared foods that would be made available from this legislation would greatly benefit us in stretching our agency dollars in order to provide meals for the soup kitchen guests.

Our soup kitchen operates on a very limited budget and except for one half-time employee is staffed by volunteers. Our freezers and equipment for the shelter and soup kitchen are very old, and repairs that we must do often are a hardship to our budget. An increase in grant opportunities for agency infrastructure made available from this legislation would lessen the burden on our agency and make it possible to purchase new equipment rather than repairing the same equipment over and over.

Ruth Meiers also provides food baskets to members of our community who need help with their food needs at home. In 2008 we gave out 513 food baskets - equaling approximately 21,430 pounds of food. Recent economic conditions have placed a hardship on all of us – but especially on low-income families. In the summer of 2008 we saw many new people coming to us for food baskets. These people were working, however, with the high gas prices and increased cost of food at the grocery store they were not able to make ends meet. Having to make a decision whether to pay their electric bill or buy food for their family is not a decision that anyone should have to make.

The pantry shelves at Ruth Meiers are sometimes low. During these times we feel we must keep enough food on hand to feed the residents of our homeless shelters, but that means we are not able to give out the food baskets. In summer of 2008 Great Plains Food Bank and Ruth Meiers were able to partner with Sam's Club in Bismarck to recover their surplus food. That partnership has been wonderful. The amount of food we get three times a week from Sam's has enabled us to provide meat, baked goods and deli items to people receiving our food boxes. Additional partnerships with retailers such as Sam's Club to recover surplus food would increase the food supply pantries statewide would have available for distribution.

Charitable emergency feeding programs are in need of help. Increased numbers of families who need help with food are putting more demand on the programs, while the charitable contributions needed to run these programs are down. Ruth Meiers Hospitality House supports Senate Bill No. 2231 and legislation that would expand the recovery of surplus food, provide equipment grants to community food programs and strengthen the network of charitable feeding programs in the state of North Dakota.

#5

**Testimony Given in Favor of Senate Bill 2231  
By Andrea Olson, Asset Development Coordinator  
North Dakota Community Action Partnership  
March 12, 2009**

Chair Wrangham and members of the committee, for the record my name is Andrea Olson and I am the Asset Development Coordinator of the North Dakota Community Action Partnership representing the seven North Dakota Community Action Agencies. Community Action Agencies are in favor of the SB2231 because of the impact it would have on lower income households that are struggling to meet their daily food needs.

Community Action Agencies are nonprofit private organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on Poverty. Community Action administers a variety of programs such as Head start, Weatherization, Case Management, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. All CAA programs are directed at helping lower income individuals and families increase their self sufficiency. We serve all 53 counties throughout North Dakota.

For over 30 years Community Action Agencies across North Dakota have helped families meet their basic food needs. We would not be able to provide this service to our clients without the GPFB supplying us with the food and other resources. Across North Dakota, Community Action Agencies sponsor dozens of food pantries supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank. It is safe to say that many of the Community Action sponsored pantries would not be in operation without the Food Bank. We depend on their support and look to them to obtain the majority of food and other grocery items that are distributed in the food baskets. We also

utilize their products for the backpack for kids program which is administered by our Bismarck agency. The Great Plains Food Bank provides us with a lot of the food included in these backpacks (hold up sample). These backpacks are distributed to 220 Bismarck children each Friday that are in need or homeless. The estimated value of the food in this backpack is \$8.00. If we secured these items from a retail outlet, it would cost over \$1700 per week. It's because of the food product that has been donated to the food bank, that we are able to offer this valuable service. The Great Plains Food Bank is also a great resource of information and answers a lot of training and technical assistance questions for Community Action agencies. Staff at the Food Bank is very knowledgeable about expiration dates, safe food handling, available funding resources, food recalls and volunteer recruitment.

Our Bismarck Agency, (Community Action Program Region VII) has been fortunate to be the "pilot" region for the Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry program. Through this program together we are able to get food into rural communities that are very much underserved. Basically, we advertise when the mobile pantry is coming and residents meet at the location and receive a box which includes about 40 pounds of food. They receive a box for each person in their household. So far there have been 4 drops in McLean County and two each in Oliver and Sheridan. There are food pantries in each of these counties however distance and availability is an obstacle and the food pantries that already exist are not able to fill the need. In some cases a mobile food pantry can be much more cost efficient for a community, often times in rural communities it is difficult to start a new stand

alone pantry due to finding space, paying rent on the space, securing volunteers, and securing financial support to purchase food.

In addition, Community Action is also very excited about the Great Plains Food Bank's desire to expand perishable food recovery programs in other areas of the state. Very seldom do the pantries receive any fresh perishables and when they do, clients are very excited and thankful. Just like us, I think clients want to eat healthy, and often find it difficult to do so on what they are able to afford and what they receive from a food pantry.

Now, I want to talk a little more about the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota study. Community Action was proud to be part of this project, the information gathered confirms the needs throughout the state. Each Community Action agency across the state will continue to work with the Great Plains Food Bank as they look at resources and develop a plan of action to address each region individually. This process has already begun in Region 7—Bismarck, and conversations have begun in Region 1—Williston and Region 8—Dickinson. The Great Plains Food Bank understands how each region is unique, has different resources, and in some cases a different culture or attitude. Together along with other hunger-relief partners and existing providers we will work to develop a plan that fits each region and the needs of the communities within that region. We know that the providers need to be a key part of the in the plan of action, and understanding their needs and listening to their requests is the initial step of developing a successful plan.

In closing, I am proud to support SB2231 and hope that you look favorably upon the Great Plains Food Bank's request.

This completes my testimony, and would like to open for any questions.  
Thank you for this opportunity to share with you.



March 12, 2009

Testimony  
SB 2231

#16

Chairman Wrangham and Members of the Political Subdivisions Committee:

Good morning. I am Karen Ehrens, a Licensed Registered Dietitian, and I am here today on behalf of the over 300 members of the North Dakota Dietetic Association (NDDA) in support of SB 2231, which would help meet the gaps in our charitable feeding program with new delivery systems and enhance efforts to help people be able to feed themselves.

The North Dakota Dietetic Association, with a mission to support the public through the promotion of optimal nutrition, health and well-being, believes that systematic and sustained action is needed to bring an end to food insecurity and hunger. Both immediate interventions, such as mobile food pantries and food baskets, and long-range interventions are needed. Interventions include adequate funding for and increased utilization of food and nutrition assistance programs, the inclusion of food and nutrition education in all programs providing food and nutrition assistance, and innovative programs to promote and support the economic self-sufficiency of individuals and families, to end food insecurity and hunger in North Dakota, the United States and the world.

We support efforts to help people access adequate foods for the following reasons:

North Dakota growers feed the world, yet 6.4 percent of North Dakotans are food insecure, including the 13,656 children living in households that are food insecure.

The consequences of food insecurity are grave and can lead to illness and the development of chronic disease, fatigue, psychological issues like stress and disturbances in families.

Food insecurity hits at our most vulnerable populations: children and seniors. Food insecurity can lead to poorer performance in school and more illness, meaning more days missed from the school year. Older adults who experience food insecurity are more likely to have lower intakes of key nutrients necessary for leading healthy and fully functioning lives.

The ND Dietetic Association is a partner in the *Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota* Task Force. We are just beginning to expand current partnerships and networks in the state to work more effectively together to help eliminate hunger. One example of this is the *Going Local North Dakota* Initiative of the ND Department of Agriculture. Building local food systems is a crucial step in helping to achieve food security. We are beginning to link farmers' markets, community gardens, and farm-to-school programs to charitable feeding programs.

Please consider authorizing funding this investment on the public side of this public/private partnership which will help all North Dakotans achieve food and nutrition security. Working together, we can find solutions.