

Dear Rep/Sen XXX,

The six North Carolina Food Banks, including MANNA FoodBank, appeared today before the Joint House and Senate HHS Appropriations Sub-Committee to report how we used the \$3 million in state funding we received last year to help feed NC residents facing hunger, and to make the case for continued funding. The funds we receive from the state are equally divided by the six food banks in North Carolina, and are used to purchase food to supplement and leverage donations from retail grocery stores, food drives, and numerous corporate and individual donors. For MANNA, The food purchased through state funds accounts for only 10% of the total, but it has a powerful impact, as it enables us to supplement donated food with highly nutritious staple items like peanut butter, green beans, tuna, and bran flakes.

We need your support to ensure the continuation of State funding for Food Banks.

The state's financial support to Food Banks is a prime example of public/private collaboration. In the past year, MANNA FoodBank partnered with 231 nonprofit organizations and thousands of volunteers throughout our 16 county service area to distribute over 11 million pounds of food to the 1 in 6 neighbors in WNC who struggle to put food on the table. We hope the legislature will restore funding to the \$5.7 million we collectively received in FY 11/12, or at a minimum continue the current funding level of \$3 million.

On the attached sheet, we have provided some basic information on the counties that are either totally or partially included in your district. You will no doubt recognize the names of many of the MANNA partner organizations that help distribute food to your constituents. If you have not had a recent opportunity to do so, we would like to invite you to come take a tour of MANNA FoodBank, or contact us to arrange a visit to one of our partner organizations in your district so you can see first-hand the inspirational impact of communities coming together in service to others.

We appreciate that the coming weeks will be challenging for you as a state legislator, and we wish you the best in your deliberations. Please keep in mind that the funds provided to Food Banks are multiplied many times over through the efficiency of our extended network of partner organizations, volunteers, and corporate and community supporters. It is a wise investment of state dollar. Please call on us if you would like further information, or if there is any way we can be helpful to you.

Respectfully,

Cindy Threlkeld
Executive Director

Terry Latanich
Board of Directors