

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 101

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to commend Tennessee's food retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers.

WHEREAS, in the United States, food waste is estimated at between thirty to forty percent of the food supply, as estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and

WHEREAS, this estimate, based on estimates from the USDA's Economic Research Service of thirty-one percent food loss at the retail and consumer levels, corresponded to approximately 133 billion pounds and \$161 billion worth of food in 2010; and

WHEREAS, this amount of waste has far-reaching impacts on food security, resource conservation, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, wholesome food that could have helped feed families in need is too often sent to landfills; and

WHEREAS, the land, water, labor, energy, and other inputs used in producing, processing, transporting, preparing, storing, and disposing of discarded food are pulled away from uses that may have been more beneficial to society—and generate impacts on the environment that may endanger the long term health of the planet; and

WHEREAS, food waste, which is the single largest component going into municipal landfills, quickly generates methane, helping to make landfills the third-largest source of methane in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates the amount of food going into municipal solid waste in 2011 was 21.4 percent of municipal solid waste, equal to 35.04 metric tons (77,000 pounds); and

WHEREAS, the USDA estimates the amount of food loss and waste from the food supply at the retail and consumer levels was thirty-one percent of the food supply, equaling 133 billion pounds and almost \$162 billion; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's grocery and convenience store industries are taking extraordinary measures to reduce food waste by improving product development, storage, shopping/ordering, marketing, labeling, and cooking methods; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's grocery and convenience store industries are taking extraordinary measures to recover food waste by connecting potential food donors to hunger relief organizations like food banks and pantries; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's grocery and convenience store industries are taking extraordinary measures to recycle food waste to feed animals or to create compost, bioenergy, and natural fertilizers; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's grocery and convenience store industries are working hand-in-hand with other industry sectors to meet the USDA's goal of a fifty percent reduction in food waste by 2030; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 496 stores from Tennessee's retail food industry worked closely with the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, the Mid-South Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee, Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee to distribute 22,688,715 pounds of food—the equivalent of 18,907,262 meals—to those in need throughout all ninety-five of Tennessee's counties, ensuring that excess food goes to those struggling with hunger instead of landfills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that Tennessee's food retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers are to be commended for their extraordinary efforts to donate consumable yet unsaleable food to the underfed of our society; to recycle food waste for nourishment of the state's livestock herds or

for composting or other recycling methods; and taking every measure to see that such resources are put to productive use rather than occupying limited space in our State's landfills.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tennessee's grocery and convenience store industry leaders continue to work for greater efficiencies in reducing food waste in Tennessee, and that they recommend to the General Assembly any policy change on both the state and federal level to make food donation and recycling easier for those industries, and seek logistic solutions with partners to overcome transportation and food storage limitations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.