

[Your Name]

[Address]

[City], Iowa [Zip code]

[Insert date]

The Honorable [insert legislators name]

[1007 E. Grand Ave.]

[Des Moines, Iowa 50319]

Dear Senator/Representative [insert last name]:

My name is [insert your name] and I reside at [insert your address] in [insert your city], Iowa.

I'm writing to you because I believe food security is a critical problem that needs to be urgently addressed.

Every day, Iowans across our state struggle – not knowing when or where they'll be able to have their next meal. I am one of those Iowans. My lack of food is causing me to lose focus at work/school and negatively impacting my performance and my overall health. / I am grateful to have access to food – healthy, nutritious meals – that allows me to thrive. I want the same thing for every person in my community.

People of all walks of life, from children to seniors, struggle with food security or being able to afford fresh fruits, vegetables, and healthy protein on a limited food budget. The pandemic only made the issue greater, as thousands of Iowans found themselves needing to make tough choices on their already tight food budgets or seeking food from local nonprofit resources due to a job loss. I'm proud of the work our local food bank and pantry system has done to help as many Iowans as currently possible, but we must all work together to ensure no Iowan goes hungry.

One way to expand the capacity of food banks and pantries is to provide the system with a state sales tax exemption. Currently, nonprofit food banks and pantries still pay taxes on many of the items they use to provide services. A sales tax exemption is estimated to reduce state sales taxes by no more than \$250,000 per year, but those funds could be used by the system to purchase an additional 1.2 million pounds of food to support Iowans.

I ask you to support HF 579/SF 306 to exempt nonprofit food banks and pantries from state sales taxes.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you plan to support and will vote to pass HF 579/SF 306. My email address is [insert email address] if that provides a quicker and easier way for you to connect.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

[Insert your printed name below your signature]