

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Opposition to the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R.2)

May 7, 2018

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Food is a basic human right, and the City of Albany is concerned about the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2) recently released in the House of Representatives. It cuts the food stamp program that 40 million low-income Americans depend on to help put food on the table, including over 100,000 people here in Alameda County.

Together with Alameda County Community Food Bank, we oppose the proposed legislation because of its negative impact on people facing hunger. This Farm Bill will increase hunger and hardship in our communities by taking away food from struggling families. It will make life harder for millions of workers in-between jobs and with irregular hours, create new hardship for families with young children. It will also divert money that is currently being spent on food assistance into complex new bureaucratic systems.

Detailed new documentation and reporting requirements will raise unnecessary barriers to people seeking food assistance, and are likely to be particularly problematic for people who work in low-wage jobs and people who have disabilities.

By taking food away from low-income families, children and seniors who are living just above the federal poverty line, this bill will mean that more people going to bed hungry every night.

This proposal also threatens SNAP's successful and efficient public-private partnership that drove approximately \$12 billion in economic activity last year all while feeding millions of struggling Californians. SNAP, not a private charity, is the front-line against hunger. For these reasons, we join the California Association of Food Banks to urge you to

reject any cuts, block grants or structural changes to SNAP and other core programs that help lift people out of poverty. We encourage you to work with your colleagues to produce a unified Farm Bill.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue for our community.

Sincerely,



Peggy McQuaid
Albany Mayor

cc. Sam Caygill, League of CA Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
Stephen Knight, Alameda County Food Bank, sknight@accfb.org