

(SENDER'S NAME)
(SENDER'S ADDRESS)
(SENDER'S CONTACT)

(DATE)

Pramila Jayapal
U.S. Representative for Washington's 7th District

RE: H.R. 4184 Bill

Dear Pramila,

As a constituent in your 7th congressional district, fellow cohorts and myself at the University of Washington, are reaching out to you and other fellow U.S. Representatives in the State of Washington to bring to your attention the H.R. 4184 Bill, commonly known as the "Food Recovery Act of 2015." As a Masters' student studying Communications in Community Networks, I would like to highlight some key features of this bill that would hopefully aid in your decision to consider supporting this bill to bring about change to four important dimensions of community networks: farms, retail/restaurants, schools, and consumers.

It is nearly halfway to 2017 and this bill needs more support since its conception in 2015. Food waste is a silent epidemic costing billions in dollars, while 1 in 7 Americans still go hungry. To understand the cost and impacts of food waste, I implore you for a few days to try a mindfulness exercise of seeing what you discard, the intent of why you discarded it, and some simple calculations of money thrown out and what you could have done with those funds instead. Normally, we all have at some point been very conscious about grocery budgets, but now more than ever-we need to calculate the reverse cost of what we waste and how to mitigate it.

To summarize some key features of the H.R. 4184 Bill, it introduces combating food waste towards those four dimensions of farms, retail/restaurants, schools and consumers.

1. **Title I-Farms, Sec.103** *Composting As Conservation Practice*; it would require farms to compost on their own lands. Creating and using compost on their crops would enhance crop growth, make use of misfit produce not sellable at markets for full price, while reducing food waste.
2. **Title II- Retail And Restaurants, Sec. 203** *Report On Food Donation By Retail Stores*; a year after the bill being passed, it would require retail food stores to be more transparent about its food donation efforts, while increasing those efforts as well, since they would have to report to the Secretary of Agriculture.
3. **Title III-Schools And Other Institutions, Sec. 310** *Office of Food Recovery*; it would establish a new 'Office of Food Recovery' to coordinate Federal programs to measure and reduce the incidence of food waste. **Sec. 302**, *Amendments To Federal Food Donation Act To Require Food Donations By Executive Agencies And Congress*; the language of The Federal Food Donation Act of 2008 would be updated to change

“encourage” to “require.” Rhetoric that necessitates a mandatory would hopefully boost efforts, as voluntary actions have been low.

4. **Title IV-Consumers And Local Infrastructure, Sec. 402, Support For National Media Campaigns To Decrease The Incidence Of Food Waste**; it would support national media campaigns to decrease the incidence of food waste, while having \$8 million mandatory funding. Communities and the public need to be educated about impacts and efforts to combat this epidemic from a federal level for credibility.

In the end, this bill introduces some groundbreaking changes that are needed to reduce food waste on a federal level. I have been that 1 of 7 statistic in the not so distant past, of being a hungry American and university student. I have personally spent time rallying community donations towards our local University Food Bank for donations during off peak donation seasons to donate needed things beyond canned goods. To personally step foot into the University Food Bank and see all of the misshapen and beaten up produce options for our community was disheartening, but at the same time feeling thankful that the food bank is striving for more real food options. As humans, it should be a fundamental right to have access to nutritious foods for better productivity in our society and communities, and as Americans, no one should go hungry.

Thank you for your time,

(SENDER'S NAME)