

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RB5143: AN ACT CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PERISHABLE FOOD DONATED BY CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS

With regard to HB5143 Fitzgerald Foods requests that support be given to this bill. Although our store and independent markets like ours frequently donates food products to local pantry's as part of everyday business, the storm of October 31, 2011 brought to light a serious concern of food waste that could have been avoided.

For extended periods of power outages, (2 days plus) heavy losses of perishable products are incurred when stores such as ours do not have the luxury of a generator. We are insured for those losses, and are reimbursed by our insurance companies after the product is in fact lost, and no longer saleable and is disposed of.

HB5143 would give markets such as ours the opportunity to donate the product to shelters and pantries that have the ability to safely store such product. This could occur when extreme weather hits and a state of emergency appears to be imminent. Stores would be accountable for the same record keeping of lost inventory as if it were being disposed of, but given to pantries and shelters while product is useable.

I have been in the supermarket business for almost 40 years and have never experienced such a dramatic amount of loss, and hope that HB5143 is just a law in the books never having to be implemented. My hope is that we can learn from it and make the best of what was a sad and devastating event should we ever be faced with one again.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter and hope you vote favorably which will help us help our communities, especially in times of extreme needs.

Bryan E. DeVoe, President

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