

GOOD SAMARITAN HUNGER
RELIEF TAX INCENTIVE ACT**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day to introduce the Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Act. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague RICHARD BAKER from Louisiana in co-sponsoring this bill, especially given his concern for hungry Americans through his work with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. We join with our esteemed colleagues in the Senate, Senators LUGAR and LEAHY, who have introduced companion legislation. They are longstanding champions of programs that help the hungry and our nation is enriched by their leadership on this forgotten issue.

Despite our economy's strength, hunger still plagues our nation. It directly threatens 31 million Americans, many of them families and working people. Many of them are leaving welfare and need help along the path to self-sufficiency. Many of them are just like you and me, except that they are often hungry and must turn to community and faith-based hunger relief organizations to feed their families. Currently, more than 10 percent of our fellow citizens depend on nonprofit food distribution organizations for a major part of their nutritional needs.

I have been working on the issue of hunger for more than fifteen years. Now more than ever it is clear that we can cure hunger, that we know what to do. Working together, government, non-profit organizations, and the private sector can eliminate hunger, but any solution must be multi-faceted. Our government needs to improve and expand the Food Stamp Program, our nation's front line of defense against widespread hunger. Non-profit food banks need additional commodities, especially The emergency food Assistance Program, which also benefits our farmers and private donations. And we need to encourage the private sector to do their part by donating food and other resources.

Mr. Speaker, this bill focuses on this third facet by encouraging and assisting the private sector to donate to hunger relief organizations. It would expand the charitable tax deductions to farmers, restaurants and other businesses that are not just corporations. And it would clarify the treatment of donated food for tax purposes.

I have introduced a version of this bill for the past two sessions of Congress, and am encouraged that the Senate Finance Committee is conducting a hearing this week on encouraging charitable giving. I am thankful for colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee who are supporting this bill and have supported the concept in the past, especially JIM RAMSTAD, JOHN LEWIS, KAREN THURMAN and AMO HOUGHTON. I am hopeful that after years of trying we can pass this bill this year.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans waste 96 billion pounds of food every year. That amounts to more than \$31 billion worth of food that is thrown away, or \$1,000 worth of food for every one of the 31 million people are hungry or at risk of hunger. Dumping or plowing under this uneaten food costs our local communities more than \$1 billion a year in waste management costs. If we could recover just 5 percent of the food wasted, we could feed four million people. If 10 percent was recovered, 8 million more people would be fed and with 25 percent recovered, we would have food for 20 million people.

Giving food to charities makes good sense, and removing the tax disincentives to the private sector contributions is a key part of that effort. If they help, I am happy to provide a benefit to businesses like Pizza Hut, the largest prepared-food donor in the country; or Potato Management Company (PMC), a farmers' co-operative that just donated 20 million pounds of potatoes to America's Second Harvest; and Kraft Foods, one of the largest overall donors to hunger relief efforts. The private sector needs to do even more to help us wipe out hunger and this bill will assist them with that task.

I am even happier to help the groups that are on the front line of the struggle to end hunger. The Emergency Food Bank in my district of Dayton, Ohio does a terrific job in feeding the hungry. They simply need some help, and this bill is one way we in Congress can help our local food banks. Of course, this bill alone is not sufficient, but it is a step in the right direction.

This bill represents the second generation of Good Samaritan legislation. When gleaning and food recovery began to expand two decades ago, farmers and businesses needed to know that they were protected from liability in acting as Good Samaritans. I was able to encourage the state of Ohio to pass liability protection for those who open their fields to gleaners or who donate food in good faith. Then, in 1996, we were able to enact the Bill

Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, which created liability protection nationwide.

I hope this Congress and President Bush will turn this new legislation into law. It enjoys the support and endorsement of America's Second Harvest, the National Council of Chain Restaurants, Grocery Manufacturers of America, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Restaurant Association, National Farmers Union, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Fisheries Association and the National Milk Producers Federation.

I look forward to the day when I no longer hear the stories about senior citizens skipping meals to pay for their prescriptions, or parents cutting way back to make sure their kids have enough to eat, or veterans lining up at community kitchens for a hot meal. But before that time comes, we have to do everything we can to meet the needs of those who are hungry.

Alone, this bill will not solve the problem of hunger, but it will give us another arrow in our quiver. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation and bringing us significantly closer to ending hunger.

HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF J.B. AND GERRY AMBURGEY

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize J.B. and Gerry Amburgey on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They have been a vital team in Montgomery County since they were married in Camargo on March 13, 1951.

The Amburgey's have served the Jeffersonville/Means community for over 50 years through their family business, civic duties and church-related activities. For the majority of their 50 years together, J.B. and Gerry worked side by side at W.J. Amburgey & Sons. With the local Post Office housed at the same location as the family business, Gerry also dedicated 27 years to the community as its Post-Master.

It is a great honor to provide a tribute for a couple who have committed themselves to each other for so many years. That is why it is a privilege for me to rise today and honor J.B. and Gerry's 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them many more years of happiness together.