

ALASKA STATE HOUSE

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REPRESENTATIVE DAVE TALERICO

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 186

"An Act relating to the donation of food; and relating to food banks."

HB 186 seeks to reduce the amount of wasted food in the state while increasing the amount of food donated to food banks and other charitable organizations. Nearly 15% of Alaskans fall into the category of food insecure individuals. Many businesses are currently donating excess food however many desire to do so but are not because of liability. Many charitable organizations do not receive sufficient food donations to feed the homeless and hungry that without such charities have no way to eat. These charities and people may greatly benefit from more donated food.

HB 186 will allow hotels, restaurants, stores and other food donors who choose to donate their excess unsold food or out dated food to donate to food banks or charitable organizations free from liability. This will open up the doors for thousands of pounds of new donated food to charities and thus help feed the nearly 15% hungry Alaskans. HB will require that all food donors that choose to donate hot excess food to simply label the donated hot food that can be frozen and re-served.

HB 186 will also reduce the amount of food put into our landfills which smells, attracts animals, birds and unnecessarily takes up space.

I urge your support for this bill to help reduce the amount of wasted food and increase the amount of donated food to decrease hunger in Alaska. Thank you!

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