



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senate Farm Bill Presents a Responsible, Forward-Looking Vision to Fight Hunger, Improve Health and Strengthen Rural Communities

Media Statement Attributed to David Lee, Executive Director, Feeding Wisconsin

“We join a broad coalition of food, farm, and anti-hunger advocates to applaud the Senate Agriculture Committee’s bipartisan passage of The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (S.3042). This legislation presents a forward-looking vision to fight hunger, improve health and strengthen our rural communities.

“Unlike the House version, the Senate Farm Bill makes responsible, common-sense investments in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), our nation’s signature anti-hunger program to improve SNAP’s integrity, accountability and workforce development features without risking access to basic nutrition assistance for vulnerable Americans.

“While the Senate Farm Bill does a great job in protecting SNAP, it misses an opportunity to fully invest in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides high-quality food products for food banks and food pantries to distribute to Americans at-risk of hunger. TEFAP is a significant source fruits, vegetables, protein and dairy purchased from U.S. growers and producers. Over one-third of food insecure Wisconsinites earn too much to be eligible for SNAP. For many of them, they rely on the Wisconsin’s food banks and food pantries for help.

“We remain hopeful that there will be opportunities to increase investment in TEFAP as the bill moves to the Senate floor. We are also very excited about the proposed pilot projects that would help connect low-income Americans at-risk of diet-related diseases to healthy food. Most importantly, we grateful that the Senate Farm Bill protects SNAP.

“We encourage the Senate to continue working in a bipartisan manner to protect SNAP as the Farm Bill moves toward a full vote. We also hope that the House will follow the Senate’s lead and revisit HR 2 with a bipartisan approach.”

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Feeding Wisconsin is the statewide association of the six regional Feeding America food banks that provide emergency food, technical assistance, and other resources to a network of over 1,000 local food pantries in every county of the state. The Feeding Wisconsin network of food banks and food pantries provides over 55 million meals every year to nearly 600,000 Wisconsinites. Together, we are leading the way Forward toward a healthy and hunger free Wisconsin. For more information about how Feeding Wisconsin helps its food banks, partners and stakeholders fight hunger, improve health and strengthen communities, visit www.FeedingWI.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#).