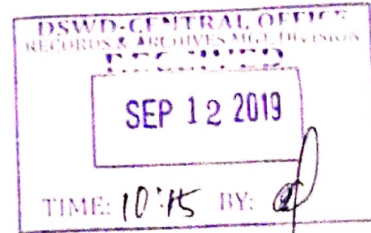




September 5, 2019

Honorable CYNTHIA A. VILLAR
Chairperson
Committee on Agriculture and Food
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City



Dear Senator Villar:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports Senate Bill No. 423 entitled "An Act Reducing Food Waste through Food Donations and Food Waste Recycling" or the "Food Waste Reduction Act," authored by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. **Section 3. Definition of Terms:** We suggest to revise the following terms:
 - a. **Item a. Edible Food Surplus:** refers to excess food/surplus food in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be fit for consumption **BY THE ACCREDITED HEALTH INSPECTOR OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU)** based on the standards set by the National Nutrition Council (NNC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
 - b. **Item d. Food-Related Business:** refers to public and private businesses involved in the manufacturing and processing of food products, **PUBLIC** and private businesses involved in the wholesaling and retailing of food products, **PUBLIC** and private businesses involved in serving food products, and **PUBLIC** and private institutions offering courses in the art and science of preparation, cooking and presentation of food; and
 - c. **Item e. Food Banks:** refer to non-profit, charitable or other social mission-oriented organizations that **STORE** and distribute food to the food-insecure.
2. **Section 6. National Food Surplus Campaign:** Include the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars who identify and locate underweight children and can also serve as linkage-builders to raise local awareness on the reduction of food waste through food donation and food waste recycling.
3. **Section 7. Edible Food Surplus Distribution Steps, Item c:** We recommend that the accreditation of food banks be lodged with the NNC or FDA since these agencies can determine whether a particular facility can meet their standards.

DSWD Central Office, IBP Road, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Philippines 1126
Email: oscc@dswd.gov.ph Tel. Nos.: (632) 931-8101 to 07 Telefax: (632) 931-8191
Website: <http://www.dswd.gov.ph>

4. **Section 8. Food-Related Business Waste Reduction Strategy:**

We recommend the following:

- a. **Item a:** Inclusion of a provision regarding the engagement of local health inspectors in the donation of edible food to food banks and the donation of inedible food to the LGUs;
- b. **Item b:** To replace the term "**CONTRACT**" with "**DEED OF DONATION**" to be more specific; and
- c. **Item c:** Upon executing the **DEED OF DONATION**, the food bank becomes the owner of the edible food surplus. The liability of the donor establishment to ensure the good quality of food surplus is only upon its delivery to the food bank – not to its distribution center (which may be different from the food bank itself) or upon pick-up of the donated edible food surplus from the donor establishment by the food bank.

5. **Section 9. National Food Surplus Scheme:** We also recommend the following:

- a. **Item a:** The guidelines and standards for the collection and storage of edible food surplus should be crafted by the Department of Health (DOH) in coordination with FDA. Pursuant to Section 12 of the bill, the DOH is the one mandated to accredit and provide trainings to health inspectors regarding the proper sorting and collection of edible food surplus; and
- b. **Item b:** Revise the sentence to read as "Ensure that food businesses have entered into **DEED OF DONATION** with food banks and **THAT FOOD BANKS HAVE** issued acceptance certificates to food businesses."

6. **Section 13. Liability Protection:** The donation of inedible food surplus should be with the LGUs for management and recycling, not with farm owners.

7. **Section 15. Prohibition of Selling Edible and Inedible Food Surplus:** The prohibition should apply to covered establishments, food banks and LGUs regardless if the edible or the inedible food surplus has been donated or not.

8. **Section 17. Implementing Rules and Regulations:** Include the FDA and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) which has data/statistics on individuals or families that are below poverty threshold and considered food poor.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,



ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA

Secretary

Date: _____