

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

VICE CHAIRMAN
CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1323 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-6405

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1045 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 6
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
(419) 354-8700

101 CLINTON STREET
SUITE 1200
DEFIANCE, OH 43512
(419) 782-1996

11 EAST MAIN STREET
NORWALK, OH 44857
(419) 668-0206

December 16, 2011

Dear Principal,

During the upcoming months, food banks and food pantries often experience a decrease in provisions after the holiday influx of donations. Furthermore, many charitable organizations are already seeing low levels of donations due to the economy. I want to make you and your school aware of recent legislation that has been signed into law to clarify that public schools can donate unused cafeteria food to local food banks and food pantries.

Currently, many school districts do not donate excess food out of concern that they are not covered under the Good Samaritan Act, which protects donors who give to food banks in good faith from all liability. However, Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) inserted language into the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations bill that funds the Department of Agriculture to amend the national school lunch program and address this issue. Representative Wolf's provision ensures that schools are covered under the Good Samaritan Act from all liability and it was codified when the legislation was signed into law on November 18, 2011.

As a result of this clarification, each school and local educational agency participating in the school lunch program may donate any food not consumed under the school lunch program to eligible local food banks or charitable organizations. This long overdue, common-sense change will allow schools to boost the inventory of food pantries at a time when donations are greatly needed. Should you have any questions about the food donation program, or need information about local food banks, please contact my staff member, Bethany Peck, at (202) 225-6405.

It is my great honor to serve as your Member of Congress and it is my number one priority to represent you and the best interests of the Fifth Congressional District. Please do not hesitate to call, write, or e-mail me in the future with any of your concerns or questions. For federal-related issues, you may reach my Washington, D.C. office by phone at (202) 225-6405, or my District office at (800) 541-6446 for constituent services. I encourage you to visit my website at <http://latta.house.gov> where you can sign up for my e-newsletter and text message updates. The website also provides links to my YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr pages, as well as my blog, all of which will help bring my work in Washington, D.C. home to you.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

REL/bap