

Vermonters Feeding Vermonters
Public funding to purchase fresh, local food
for Vermonters facing hunger!

Ladies and Gentlemen, I speak before you this evening to ask for your continued support of the initiative put forward by the **Vermont Food Bank** called **Vermonters Feeding Vermonters**.

1. As the title suggests, this food programme encourages Vermont farmers to sell their products locally. In today's situation the **Vermont Food Bank** continues to demonstrate daily, the capacity to get fresh, nutritious, food to those most in need.

2. At the same time, through the **Vermonters Feeding Vermonters** programme, large numbers of our local farmers have been able to sell their produce directly to the food shelves in all corners of the state and thus provide fresh, locally grown food to those who might otherwise suffer from hunger.

Speaking personally, my wife and I volunteer every Thursday at Chester-Andover Family Centre. We assist in the food shelf area, and it is wonderful to see so many people being helped on a monthly basis with a full box of food. They are all profoundly grateful for the help they receive - especially during these trying times - and quite simply, if it were not for the **Vermont Food Bank**, we would have families in the area going to bed hungry.

Let me tell you about a special programme at our Family Centre. It's a weekly event that we call 'Fresh Friday'. Locals who need additional fresh veggies can visit the food shelf every Friday and pick up a new supply of fresh, locally grown food. I am quite certain that everyone here this evening would agree that the more nutritious a gift of food is the better for everyone, and what could be better than picking up bags of fresh food from our local farmers on Fridays.

The **Vermont Food Bank** is an integral member of our team and without its regular support the Chester-Andover Family Centre, and many other food shelves across the state, would likely be in dire straights. I urge you to continue to support, to continue to fund the **Vermont Food Bank**.

Thank you for your attention and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks agin.

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