

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. 110

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 4, 1997

By Senators CIESLA, PALAIA and Bennett

- 1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to support the  
2       FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties' food recovery project.  
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- 4   **WHEREAS**, Large quantities of wholesome, edible food are lost at every stage  
5       of the marketing system. According to a report released by the United  
6       States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, 96 billion  
7       pounds of food, or 27 percent of the 356 billion pounds of edible food  
8       available for human consumption in the United States, were lost to human  
9       use in 1995; and
- 10   **WHEREAS**, Examples of such losses include meats, bread, dairy products, and  
11       other foods prepared by a restaurant or caterer, but never served, and the  
12       discard of blemished or overripe produce, which may be unmarketable for  
13       cosmetic reasons, but are otherwise nutritious and safe. If five percent of  
14       the 96 billion pounds were recovered, that quantity would represent the  
15       equivalent of a day's food for about four million people; and
- 16   **WHEREAS**, In 1996, the United States Department of Agriculture spent  
17       almost \$38 billion dollars providing food assistance to an estimated 45  
18       million people, about 1 in 6 Americans. In addition, local agencies and  
19       nonprofit organizations, which include food banks, provided more than 10  
20       percent of the U.S. population with a portion of their food needs. Yet even  
21       with a network of federal and local food assistance programs, almost 20  
22       percent of requests for emergency food assistance went unmet; and
- 23   **WHEREAS**, Food recovery programs help in providing additional  
24       quantities of food to hungry people and provide food banks with the  
25       ability to offer their clients more variety and nutrients in their diets by adding  
26       fresh fruits and vegetables and grain products to the usual food bank fare  
27       of canned and boxed foods. The programs also reduce waste removal fees  
28       for supermarkets and food establishments. It has been estimated that if 5  
29       percent of food service, retail and consumer losses were recovered  
30       rather than discarded, 50 million dollars could be saved annually in solid  
31       waste disposal costs for landfills; and
- 32   **WHEREAS**, The growing concern about hunger, resource conservation and  
33       the environmental and economic costs associated with food waste has  
34       raised public awareness of food loss which, in turn, has motivated  
35       public and private entities to develop ways in which to make better use of

1 available food supplies by recovering safe and nutritious food that would  
2 otherwise be wasted; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties is  
4 developing a project which would address the issues of food loss and  
5 recovery by analyzing the amount of food that is "wasted" in the  
6 State and where the wasted food exists, identifying and quantifying the  
7 need for emergency food assistance, identifying the current and projected  
8 needs for food in the State, and developing a fiscally sound plan to secure,  
9 transport and distribute the recovered food to food banks and other  
10 emergency feeding programs throughout New Jersey; now, therefore,

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12 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

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14 1. The Congress of the United States is urged to support the FoodBank  
15 of Monmouth and Ocean Counties' food recovery project which would study  
16 ways in which to recover wasted food and distribute it to emergency feeding  
17 programs throughout the State of New Jersey.

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19 2. A copy of this resolution signed by the President of the Senate and  
20 attested by the Secretary of the Senate, shall be transmitted to the President  
21 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
22 Governor of the State of New Jersey and every member of the New Jersey  
23 Congressional delegation.

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STATEMENT

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28 This resolution urges the Congress of the United States to support the  
29 FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties' food recovery project.

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