

CONGRESSMAN BISHOP, ISLAND HARVEST SUPPORT BILL TO GIVE TAX BREAKS TO FARMERS DONATING PRODUCE

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RIVERHEAD, NY -- November 2, 2009 -- Standing alongside members of Long Island's farming community and anti-hunger advocates, Congressman Tim Bishop and Randi Shubin Dresner, president and CEO of Island Harvest, today announced support for a Congressional bill which would provide permanent tax incentives for farmers who donate excess crops to hunger relief organizations.

Each year, Long Island farmers donate over 500,000 pounds of locally grown fruits and vegetables to Island Harvest, Long Island's largest hunger relief organization. However, present tax rules do not provide incentives for growers who donate excess produce. The proposed bill (H.R. 3227 and Senate version S. 1313) would allow farmers to receive tax deductions on the full market value for produce that cannot or will not be sold.

"During these difficult economic times, this tax incentive would be a win-win for our farmers and for those who are struggling to find food to eat," said Congressman Bishop. "Rather than letting excess produce go to waste, farmers can support local charities such as Island Harvest serve those in need on Long Island."

"Congressman Bishop and Long Island's farmers have been exceptionally supportive in helping Island Harvest in our fight against hunger," stated Ms. Shubin Dresner. We are grateful for their efforts; this important legislation will help provide more healthy fruits and vegetables to those Long Islanders' who face hunger each day."

The bill, cited as the Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Extension Act of 2009, while providing financial assistance to local farmers will help increase the amount of locally grown produce Island Harvest receives to provide food for the estimated 300,000 men, women and children on Long Island who access shelters, food pantries and emergency food programs. Island Harvest supplies food to over 570 member agencies across Long Island.

"The Long Island Farm Bureau is solidly behind Congressman Bishop's efforts in backing a bill that will offer tax benefits to the farmers for the products they donate to help those in need," said Joseph M. Gergela, Executive Director of the Long Island Farm Bureau. "Long Island's farming community and Island Harvest has become a vital partnership in addressing this critical issue of hunger on Long Island and we are happy to be part of that effort."

About Island Harvest

Fighting hunger and touching lives, Island Harvest serves as the bridge between those who have surplus food and those who need it, supplying hundreds of community-based

nonprofit organizations on Long Island with critical food support to help stem the advancing tide of hunger in our communities. Island Harvest has delivered more than 60 million pounds of food, supplementing nearly 47 million meals, since its inception in 1992. In support of its mission to end hunger and reduce food waste on Long Island, the organization is actively involved in educational and hunger awareness programs to inform the public about the insidious but often unrecognized problem of hunger here, in one of the wealthiest regions of the country, and how individuals, businesses, schools and commercial food establishments can make a difference. Island Harvest is a member of Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest). For more information about Island Harvest, visit www.islandharvest.org or call 516-294-8528.

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