

Submitter: Rollin Bennett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB452

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Re. Senate Bill 452

We are a senior husband and wife team volunteering at the Marion Polk Food Share warehouse since 2017 sorting non-perishable donations, and have spent time at the Meals On Wheels Kitchen and two local affiliated food bank pantries as well.

We feel great concern for those in our communities facing food insecurity and know that Marion Polk Food Share is the major non-profit addressing those concerns throughout the two counties.

We are happy spending some of our retirement years volunteering and feeling that we are helping in some small way. However, we are aware of inefficiency because of space restrictions that the organization faces while operating in its current warehouse with the incredible volume of food it is handling.

The Food Share's main Meals On Wheels kitchen is located at a separate location. Unification of its operation within the proposed warehouse space would enhance efficiency of services that deliver more than 1,000 meals daily to seniors and disabled adults.

Expansion of cold storage space would enable more utilization of available fresh and frozen items.

Disaster Preparedness Efficiency would be improved as the Food Share is one of the first community responders to assist with local community disasters.

On a personal note, our volunteer shift is preempted whenever an urgent activity, such as Disaster Preparedness, requires the space that we use to sort donations.

As the funding bill would provide for the acquisition of a larger warehouse space for the Food Share, we believe it would greatly improve its efficiency and, incidentally, our own efficiency as volunteers as well.

Respectfully,
Rollin & Alice Bennett