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**SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER AB 777 (C. Rodriguez) – Disaster Food Aid Act of 2025**

Letters can be submitted on the[**Position Letter Portal**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)*. For information on how to submit a position letter please see directions here:* [Advocacy Reference Guide](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sites/senate.ca.gov/files/2019_quick_ref_guide_advocacy.pdf)

[Date]

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris

Chair, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy

1020 N Street, Room 408A

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 777 (C. Rodriguez) – Disaster Food Aid Act of 2025 – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Petrie-Norris,

On behalf of [Name of Organization], I am writing in **SUPPORT of Assembly Bill 777 (C. Rodriguez), the Disaster Food Aid Act of 2025.** AB 777 would maximize federal food assistance following disasters by ensuring that all relevant public and private electric public and private utilities serving California households provide data necessary, to allow California to benefit from all available federal food assistance through CalFresh, Disaster CalFresh, and other programs.

AB 777 is essential to ensure that our vulnerable communities across California can maximize federal food assistance and provide critical support to families during their time of greatest need. The bill provides that data sharing agreements, points of contact, and other necessary steps are in place between utility companies and the DSS to maximize federal food assistance in future disasters.

Today, 22% of Californians are experiencing hunger. These levels rise even higher following disasters, when our communities are in their time of greatest need. We must ensure all available federal food assistance reaches disproportionately impacted Latine, Black, and other households with low-incomes who experience the highest rates of poverty-related hunger and also bear the brunt of climate-related environmental crises.

Federal law and regulation provide critical opportunities to draw down federal food assistance, which requires detailed, timely, and complete data from electric utilities in order to maximize relief to affected households. Key provisions include the Automatic Mass Replacement of regular CalFresh when there has been a widespread power outage of 4 hours or longer, the Disaster CalFresh program following a Presidential major disaster declaration, as well as enabling families to replace lost SUN Bucks summer EBT food assistance.

With the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters in California, FEMA has designated 48 of 58 counties as moderate to very high risk. In 2023 alone, California implemented Disaster CalFresh on five separate occasions across 28 counties. The recent Los Angeles Firestorms and winds demonstrated that power can be out in several communities, simultaneously, straining the ability to timely collect all necessary data.

For all the reasons above, [Name of Organization] respectfully urges your support on AB 777.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Name of Organization]