The Field Report: In DC, Lawmakers Push ‘Common Sense’ Food Waste Solution

A new bill would make it easier for businesses and organizations to donate surplus food, helping fight hunger and reduce food waste. Plus: The UN’s latest report on world hunger, Sysco sues beef companies, and Roundup residue.

Food donations in the wake of a natural disaster in 2021. (Photo credit: Scott Olson, Getty Images)

The phrase “common sense” was thrown around repeatedly at an event yesterday in the U.S. Capitol Building, where lawmakers, advocates, and business leaders gathered to garner support for the Food Donation Improvement Act.

“This is something we can all agree on,” Representative Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts), who introduced the bill in December, said at the event, which was hosted by the advocacy organization Food Tank. “There’s no reason not to do this.”

Experts and advocates say the bill will make it easier for businesses and organizations to donate surplus food, thereby mitigating the climate impacts of food waste and providing
food to communities in need. And it has garnered strong bicameral and bipartisan support: Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), Dan Newhouse (R-Washington), Jackie Walorski (R-Indiana), Grace Meng (D-New York), Carolyn Maloney (D-New York), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-District of Columbia) all spoke or shared statements at the event. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) and Pat Toomey (R-Pennsylvania) introduced a companion bill in the Senate last fall, and Senator Cory Booker (D-New Jersey) provided a statement of support. 07-13-22

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