

Supporters of the Food Supply Protection Act

California Farm Bureau Federation

Chef José Andrés

CoBank

Consumer Reports

Danone North America

Feeding America

Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association

International Dairy Foods Association

Impossible Foods

Intertribal Agriculture Council

James Beard Foundation

Land O'Lakes

Midwest Dairy Coalition

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Farmers Union

National Milk Producers Association

National Organic Coalition

National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

National Turkey Federation

National Young Farmer Coalition

Native Farm Bill Coalition

Organic Farmers Association

Organic Trade Association

Organic Valley

Rural Coalition

Sustainable Food Policy Alliance

U.S. Cattlemen's Association

United Egg Producers

United Farm Workers Union

United Farm Workers Foundation

United Fresh

US Apple Association

Western Growers

Cherry Marketing Institute

Eastern Market

Food Bank Council of Michigan

Michigan Agri-Business Association

Michigan Allied Poultry Industries

Michigan Apple Committee

Michigan Asparagus Advisory Committee

Michigan Blueberry Growers Marketing

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Michigan Farm Bureau

Michigan Food Hub Learning and Innovation Network

Michigan Milk Producers Association

Michigan Pork Producers Association

MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

MSU Product center and Food Processing Innovation Center

Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.

West Michigan Food Processing Association

Quotes from Supporting Organizations

Katherine Miller, VP of Impact at the James Beard Foundation: “During this unprecedented crisis, we need creative solutions to feed our communities and keep food businesses alive. This bill will help chefs and restaurants do what they do best – feed families and uplift their communities in innovative ways.”

Chef José Andrés, Founder of the relief organization World Central Kitchen: “As farmers are forced to plow crops back into the soil while lines stretch for miles at food banks, the need for a holistic food supply plan that keeps Americans fed safely could not be more urgent. From ensuring food processing facilities have access to PPE to increasing storage capacity at food banks, to innovative partnerships with farms and restaurants that expand the reach of national hunger programs while supporting small business recovery, I’m proud to support the Food Supply Protection Act as a bold step that turns food from a problem into a solution.”

Eric Deeble, Policy Director of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition: “The coronavirus pandemic has dramatically increased the number of families at risk of food insecurity and simultaneously closed markets and processors on which many family farmers rely. The Food Supply Protection Act, introduced by Senator Stabenow, will go a long way to fix both problems by helping farmers to provide fresh, healthy, wholesome food to families in need. Supporting small processors and food banks' capacity, and ability to purchase local foods, will help build a more resilient local food economy that benefits everyone.”

Jim Mulhern, President and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation: “Dairy farmers and manufacturers continue to endure significant headwinds on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, and American households across the country are facing massive economic pain and uncertainty. We thank Senators Stabenow and Murkowski for reintroducing the Food Supply Protection Act to provide critical funding to enhance dairy and other food donations to food insecure populations and to fortify the food and ag supply chain by helping to meet critical resource needs.”

Michael Dykes, D.V.M., President and CEO of the International Dairy Foods Association: “On behalf of our U.S. dairy processors and producers, we’re grateful for the Senate’s continued support for creating solutions that move nutritious, wholesome dairy products to Americans struggling to make ends meet due to the coronavirus crisis. The Food Supply Protection Act also provides important financial tools and support to dairy businesses that will help to keep the dairy supply chain intact until foodservice businesses—a major driver of dairy demand—are back in business.”

Chuck Conner, President and CEO of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives: “The Food Supply Protection Act will complement the efforts of USDA to ensure that the great bounty produced by this country’s farmers and ranchers reaches Americans in need at this difficult and trying time. By helping food banks expand their capacity to carry fresh foods and by providing support for small and medium food processors to expand their capacity, this legislation strengthens critical links in a food supply chain that has been strained to its limit during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Rob Larew, President of the National Farmers Union: “Every link in the food system, from farm to fork, is experiencing serious disruptions right now. If left unchecked, these disruptions could threaten farmers' livelihoods and undermine national food security. But by both facilitating the acquisition and distribution of surplus food from farmers to food banks as well as helping food and agricultural businesses adapt to new challenges, the Food Supply Protection Act will help ensure that food continues to flow safely and efficiently from farmers' fields to consumers' plates. We commend Senators Stabenow and Murkowski's commitment to defend family farmers and feed hungry Americans during this difficult time.”

Kate Leone, Chief Government Relations Officer of Feeding America: “Feeding America applauds the leadership of Senators Stabenow and Murkowski in reintroducing the Food Supply Protection Act, which would invest in new partnerships to connect growers and producers with food banks and other nonprofits to help feed communities. The legislation also provides vital support for food distribution costs and capacity investments that will help food banks connect this nutritious food with families in need.”

Teresa Romero, President of the United Farm Workers Union: “The COVID-19 crisis has helped educate government officials what many already knew—farm workers are essential workers. Without farm workers, America cannot eat. By rewarding agricultural employers for providing personal protective equipment and taking measures to protect employees from COVID-19, Senators Stabenow and Murkowski's bill is a first step toward making sure the essential work done by farm workers is supported with the pay, benefits, and protections that essential work deserves. We look forward to making more progress so that we can truly honor the women and men who feed us.”

Diana Tellefson Torres, Executive Director of the United Farm Workers Foundation: “Our nation's food security is inherently tied to our collective ability to keep farmworkers healthy and safe. As written, this bill will provide farm worker organizations and agricultural employers with access to resources to protect farm workers, address disruptions in our food supply chain, and alleviate hunger. As an organization that has been providing over 16,000 prepared meals weekly and over 2,000 food boxes monthly, we know first-hand that the need is great in California's leading agricultural regions. We recognize that much more remains to be done to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in agricultural communities and to this end, we look forward to working with Senator Stabenow (D-MI), Sen. Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Brown (D-OH), Sen. Klobuchar (D-MN), Sen. Bennet (D-CO), Sen. Gillibrand (D-NY), Sen. Casey (D-PA), Sen. Smith (D-MN), Sen. Durbin (D-IL), and Sen. Schumer (D-NY).”

Robert Guenther, Senior Vice President of the United Fresh Produce Association: “We thank Senator Stabenow for her ever-present support of specialty crops. The Food Supply Protection Act offers new opportunities to help feed hungry people and ensure that the supply chain is prepared when business returns. We look forward to working with Senator Stabenow around ways to continue to support the fresh fruit and vegetable industry.”

Dr. Phil Knight, Executive Director of the Food Bank Council of Michigan: “Senator Stabenow has long been a champion of agriculture and our emergency food network, and this legislation is a testament to her leadership in this area. The innovative, collaborative solutions outlined in this bill will support the supply chain and get more food onto the tables of those who are struggling to make ends meet during this unprecedented time.”

John Kran, National Legislative Counsel of the Michigan Farm Bureau: “Michigan Farm Bureau supports Senator Stabenow’s introduction of the Food Supply Production Act. COVID-19 has undoubtedly put very unique challenges on consumers, farmers, food banks and processors, creating bottlenecks in the supply chain and making it difficult for farmers to get products to market. This bill will help the food system to continue to operate during these unprecedented times.”

Chuck Lippstreu, President of the Michigan Agri-Business Association: “Ensuring a dependable, functioning food system amid this unprecedented emergency requires creative thinking and collaboration, and the Food Supply Production Act provides new ideas to enhance the federal government’s partnership across many critical areas. The Food Supply Production Act will help companies procure the PPE, testing and tools they need to operate, and further amplify the impact of food donations from our industry. Michigan’s agribusinesses welcome this new measure to help safeguard worker safety, assist families in need and keep the food supply chain running.”

Joe Diglio, President and CEO of the Michigan Milk Producers Association: “This legislation further builds on the milk donation initiative championed by Senator Stabenow in the 2018 Farm Bill. Senator Stabenow has had a long-standing interest in getting milk into the hands of those who need it and there hasn’t been a more critical time than now given increased food insecurity and the unprecedented disruption in the dairy supply chain. We thank Senator Stabenow for efforts to help support food banks that are overwhelmed by high demand and the financial crisis dairy farmers are facing during this pandemic.”

Dan Carmody, President of Eastern Market Corporation: “Eastern Market in Detroit, Michigan seeks to improve our residents’ access to food grown and processed in Southeast Michigan. Recently we helped launch Michigan Farm to Freezer which provides small batch IQF processing which gives residents the year-round ability to eat local and growers a new market channel. Senator Stabenow’s Food Supply Production Act, will support Eastern Market’s work with area growers regarding other supply chain investments needed to maximize the resiliency of regional food chains at a time when disruptions to national and global food chains are increasing.”

Greg Bird, Executive Director of the Michigan Vegetable Council: “The costs and risks taken on by our specialty crop food producers often are not covered by the retail prices of our healthy foods. The Michigan Vegetable Council supports your bill aimed at promoting our food supply chain and supporting our producers. Having a consistent and profitable method of using surplus food is important to our producers. In Michigan, carrots are a perfect example of a vegetable where the state struggles to find a place for surplus inventory.”

Julie Gordon, President of the Cherry Marketing Institute: “Thank you Senator Stabenow for your ongoing hard work to help America’s farmers, especially tart cherry growers. As we continue to try to navigate through these troubling times we are grateful for the support you provide to our growers and processors.”

Ron Hendrick, Professor and Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources: “The Food Supply Protection Act is attentive to all aspects of the supply chain – from the additional

individuals who need food to meet basic needs to the growers whose supply chains are disrupted to the food and agriculture industry which has persevered.”

Rich Pirog, Director of the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems “The Food Supply Protection Act will help facilitate new partnerships between Michigan food hubs and non-profits to get food to those in need. The Center for Regional Food Systems has been convening Michigan food hubs weekly during the pandemic to help them discuss and adapt to COVID 19 supply chain challenges. This legislation helps them to continue to play a critical role in delivering safe food when and where it is needed.”

Mollie Woods, Director of the MSU Product Center: “The Food Supply Protection Act is critical to ensuring the security and sustainability of the U.S. food supply. The Michigan State University Product Center and the MSU Extension Food Processing Innovation Center have been on the front lines of working with food processors in Michigan as they adapt to COVID 19 and its impacts on the supply chain. Producers and processors need support to continue to produce and package food safely so it can be delivered where and when it is needed.”

Marty Gerencer, Executive Director of the West Michigan Food Processing Association: "This is an impactful piece of legislation that would support our food processors, small/mid-size farmers, and many others in the Food & Agriculture industry. In addition, this work will allow for increased distribution of more healthy, locally produced foods to our communities. Our sincere thank you to Senator Stabenow for introducing this bill.”