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Peacebuilding Through Food Recovery

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Peacebuilding Through Food Recovery

Angela Hackstadt, University at Albany

Legal Scholarship in Food Waste Legislation

- Food Waste
 - Outgraded food
 - Overstock
 - Leftovers
 - Plate waste

Legal Scholarship in Food Waste Legislation

- Food Loss

- Damage
- Overproduction
- Food Waste

- Food Waste

- Outgraded food
- Overstock
- Leftovers
- Plate waste

Information Environment

```
graph TD; G[Government]; CO[Charitable Organizations]; FI[Food Insecure];
```

Government

Charitable
Organizations

Food
Insecure

Critical Information Literacy

Information literacy

- Locating, using, creating information
- Social

Critical Information Literacy

- Information is not neutral
- Relationships between people and information
- Systems that create and disseminate information
- Power structures

Environmental
Impact

U.S. Food
Recovery
Legislation

Role of
Information

Contributing Factors & Interactions

Factors

- Agriculture
- Agribusiness
- Food industry practices
- Consumer behavior
- Environment

Interactions

- Environment and agriculture
- Government and agriculture
- Government and retailers
- Retailers and consumers
- Actors and environment

Environmental Impact

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Land use
- Resources used to produce food
- Resources used to package, transport food
- Crop yield
- Physical properties of food

Retailers and Consumers

- Ugly produce rejected by retailers
- Consumers choose best looking fruits and vegetables
- Rejected, overstocked, spoiled food discarded

Food Insecurity

- Changes in food supply impact the food insecure first
- NOT a supply problem
- Food insecurity is a resource allocation problem
 - Social
 - Political

U.S. Food Recovery Legislation

- Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act
- Internal Revenue Code
 - PATH Act 2015
- Federal Food Donation Act of 2008

Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

- 1996
- Aimed at businesses and charitable organizations
- Limits civil and criminal liability of donors “acting in good faith”
- Food safety falls within state jurisdiction
- Emerson is not explicitly preemptive

Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

- Businesses are unaware of the law
- Preemptive?
- Some definitions are ambiguous or absent
- No financial incentive for donors
- No physical assistance for donors
- Shifts the burden of feeding people from the state
- Only allows for donation of food to charitable organizations

Internal Revenue Code

- Provides for a tax incentive for C-corporations
- Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005
 - Allowed other kinds of businesses to take advantage of tax incentives for food donation
 - Temporary legislation
- Subsequent temporary legislation applied retroactively

PATH Act of 2015

- Protecting Americans from Tax Hike Act
- Permanently extends tax incentive for food donations to all businesses

Internal Revenue Code and PATH Act of 2015

- Lack of awareness
- Requirements may be difficult to understand for first time donors
- Allows for donation to charitable organizations

Federal Food Donation Act of 2008

- Encourages the donation of excess food by government agencies and their contractors
- Donations to charitable organizations

Federal Food Donation Act of 2008

- Not enforceable - only encourages food donation
- Donation only to nonprofit organizations

Role of Information

- Safety nets
 - Government programs
 - Food banks and other organizations
- Relationships
- Cultural expectations

Promoting Peacebuilding

- Resources and education
 - Facilitate food donation
 - Operation of emergency food programs
 - Innovative technologies to address food waste
- Media and information literacy
 - Handling personal information of participants
 - Empower participants to understand how their information is used
 - Navigating media and information sources
 - Participation

Promoting Peacebuilding (2)

- Community-building opportunities
- Consistent efforts
- Create and promote transformative programs and opportunities

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