

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Eightieth Session  
March 11, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair David R. Parks at 1:10 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2019, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4404B of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator David R. Parks, Chair  
Senator Melanie Scheible, Vice Chair  
Senator Julia Ratti  
Senator Ben Kieckhefer  
Senator Pete Goicoechea

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Yvanna Cancela, Senatorial District No. 10

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jennifer Ruedy, Policy Analyst  
Heidi Chlarson, Committee Counsel  
Suzanne Efford, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Caleb Cage, Chief, Division of Emergency Management, Homeland Security  
Advisor, Department of Public Safety  
Steve Aichroth, Administrator, Housing Division, Department of Business and  
Industry  
Chuck Callaway, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Jodi Tyson, Three Square Food Bank  
Brian Burton, President/CEO, Three Square Food Bank  
Gayla Boyd, Pastor, Truth Christian Ministries International

Senate Committee on Government Affairs  
March 11, 2019  
Page 2

Warren Hardy, Nevada League of Cities  
Shane Piccinini, Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
Sarah Sanchez, Director, Carson Valley Community Food Closet  
Mackenzie Baysinger, Human Services Network  
Cherie Jamason, Director, Ending Hunger Initiative, Food Bank of Northern Nevada  
Lea Tauchen, Washoe County Food Policy Council  
Liz MacMenamin, Grocery Industry Council, Retail Association of Nevada  
Jaron Hildebrand, Nevada Trucking Association

CHAIR PARKS:

We will open the work session on Senate Bill (S.B.) 15.

**SENATE BILL 15**: Provides for the establishment of incident management assistance teams. (BDR 36-351)

JENNIFER RUEDY (Policy Analyst):

"The Legislative Counsel Bureau is a nonpartisan agency and as such I neither oppose nor advocate for legislation."

I will brief the Committee on S.B. 15 from the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)).

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 15.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

The next work session bill is S.B. 34.

**SENATE BILL 34**: Revises provisions related to emergency management. (BDR 36-353)

Ms. RUEDY:

I will summarize S.B. 34 as found in the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)).

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 34.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

The next bill is S.B. 35.

**SENATE BILL 35**: Creates the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee. (BDR 19-357)

Ms. RUEDY:

I will present S.B. 35 as contained in the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)).

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 35.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 66.

**SENATE BILL 66**: Revises provisions relating to emergency management. (BDR 36-356)

Ms. RUEDY:

I will present S.B. 66 as contained in the work session document ([Exhibit F](#)).

An amendment summary, [Exhibit F](#), page 2, was provided after the hearing by Caleb Cage, Chief, Division of Emergency Management, Homeland Security Advisor, Department of Public Safety.

Senate Committee on Government Affairs  
March 11, 2019  
Page 4

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

When this bill calls for reporting in conjunction with the confidential plan created by the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee, does that mean that a patient's name, telephone number and address will be confidential and private from the public in spite of being part of the disaster?

CALEB CAGE (Chief, Division of Emergency Management, Homeland Security Advisor, Department of Public Safety):

Are you asking if Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) protected patient information is going to remain protected even if it is included in this team or through an emergency or disaster? Section 1, subsection 2, paragraph (d) of the bill outlines the specific duties of the State Disaster Identification Coordination Committee which requires that all of the Committee's actions comply with HIPAA.

The short answer is yes. Several provisions are built into this bill to safeguard that information, one of which is the requirement that everything is completed in compliance with HIPAA.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 66.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

That takes us to work session bill S.B. 67.

**SENATE BILL 67**: Revises provisions governing local emergency management.  
(BDR 36-355)

MS. RUEDY:

I will summarize S.B. 67 from the work session document ([Exhibit G](#)).

One proposed amendment was mentioned at the hearing on this bill. There are 27 federally recognized tribes in Nevada. Section 1 should be amended to limit

the membership of the Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council up to, but no more than, 27 members. That means each of the tribes would be allowed only one member. If 1 of those 27 federally recognized tribes did not want to have a member on the Council, there would not be 2 members then from another tribe. There would be 26 members on the council. Or if 2 tribes do not want to have members on the Council, then the Council would have 25 members. That is my understanding.

MR. CAGE:

That is the correct interpretation of the proposed amendment. We would like to provide an opportunity for each of the federally recognized tribes and bands in the State to have a representative on the Council but not more than one. We are pursuing that agreement with our tribal partners in establishing this Council; at least one member from each but, not more than one.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 67.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

That takes us to work session bill S.B. 68.

**SENATE BILL 68**: Provides for the expedited granting of certain provisional registrations to volunteer providers of health or veterinary services during an emergency declaration. (BDR 36-352)

MS. RUEDY:

I will brief the Committee on S.B. 68 from the work session document ([Exhibit H](#)).

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

My notes indicate that Mr. Cage wanted to make some amendments that would perhaps expand the efficacy of the bill. I want to confirm that he does not want to propose an amendment.

Senate Committee on Government Affairs  
March 11, 2019  
Page 6

MR. CAGE:

Yes, I met with some partners following the initial hearing on this bill. We decided not to pursue amendments at this time.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 68.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

That takes us to S.B. 69 in the work session.

**SENATE BILL 69**: Revises provisions relating to emergencies and cybersecurity.  
(BDR 19-350)

MS. RUEDY:

I will summarize S.B. 69 from the work session document ([Exhibit I](#)).

A proposed amendment to section 4 of S.B. 69 was submitted by Mr. Cage. It states that school plans will be submitted to the Division of Emergency Management by July 31 of each year.

However, another bill was mentioned at the initial hearing that is going through the Senate Committee on Education, S.B. 89. Section 21 of S.B. 89 states that the same plans should be submitted to the Division by July 1 of each year. The amendment to this bill would change that requirement in S.B. 69 to July 1 in order to conform to the provisions in S.B. 89.

**SENATE BILL 89**: Makes various changes relating to education. (BDR 34-331)

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

I continue to have concerns about the ability of smaller cities and counties to implement this bill with any meaningful effect. I stated that when we had the initial hearing on the bill. However, no one followed up with any objections and no amendment was proposed. Therefore, it makes sense to move forward, but I encourage the smaller cities and counties to take another look at this bill.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 69.

SENATOR RATTI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

The next bill in the work session is S.B. 104.

**SENATE BILL 104**: Revises provisions concerning the statewide low-income housing database maintained by the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry. (BDR 25-378)

MS. RUEDY:

I will summarize S.B. 104 from the work session document ([Exhibit J](#)).

This bill was brought up for work session on March 1. However, there was some confusion on the proposed amendment, [Exhibit J](#), page 2.

SENATOR RATTI:

I pulled this bill from the previous work session because it was thought that putting it into a different chapter of the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) would make it easier for the Housing Division, Department of Business and Industry to do its work. We got where we needed to be.

STEVE AICHROTH (Administrator, Housing Division, Department of Business and Industry):

We pulled this bill from the first work session because we wanted to ensure it was put into NRS 319.143, which is the statute for the creation of the database. This will incorporate what that database is supposed to do in one statute. We did not change any of the language, just where it was going to appear in statute.

CHAIR PARKS:

Are we to understand it is good as proposed for this hearing?

Senate Committee on Government Affairs  
March 11, 2019  
Page 8

MR. AICHROTH:  
That is affirmative.

HEIDI CHLARSON (Committee Counsel):  
I want to clarify that we have the correct amendment. It looked like you proposed to have the provisions of NRS 319.267 placed in NRS 319.143. However, you made some substantive changes to that. I want to ensure we have the correct version of that amendment.

MR. AICHROTH:  
It is the correct version.

SENATOR RATTI:  
I caused some of this confusion. The reason for that confusion was because there were actually two proposed amendments. The first proposed amendment was worked on by Mr. Aichroth and Ms. Dena Schmidt, Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services. That was the substantive change to this bill. The second proposed amendment moved it into a different chapter of NRS.

The proposed amendment today is the combination of both those previous proposed amendments. Based on what was said by Ms. Chlarson, I am assured that is what happened. I, too, was confused because I was expecting to see two separate amendments. However, we are good now.

SENATOR RATTI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 104.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:  
That takes us to S.B. 182 in the work session.

**SENATE BILL 182:** Revises provisions relating to peace officers. (BDR 23-561)



Senate Committee on Government Affairs  
March 11, 2019  
Page 9

Ms. RUEDY:

I will summarize S.B. 182 from the work session document ([Exhibit K](#)).

SENATOR RATTI MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 182.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I am fine with the amended version of the bill. However, I am playing the devil's advocate. I realize it has to be like that for a county but, technically, a city would not have the right to grant police power in its jurisdiction.

CHUCK CALLAWAY (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department):

Yes, that was the intent. We did not want to have that hodgepodge, especially in Clark County where there are a number of municipalities. Tribal police might have power in one city but not in another adjacent city. We want tribal police to have jurisdiction in the whole county or not at all. If that makes sense.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Yes, I just wanted to get that on the record.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

We have one bill left in the work session, S.B. 225.

**SENATE BILL 225**: Revises provisions relating to veterans. (BDR 37-552)

Ms. RUEDY:

I will present S.B. 225 as contained in the work session document ([Exhibit L](#)).

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 225.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PARKS:

That concludes the work session. We will open the hearing on S.B. 178.

**SENATE BILL 178**: Creates the Council on Food Security and the Food for People, Not Landfills Program. (BDR 18-57)

YVANNA CANCELA (Senatorial District No. 10):

Senate Bill 178 will make a real impact to something that matters to Nevadans—food security.

In America, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 12 percent or 15 million American households face challenges providing enough food for their families. In Nevada, it is one in eight households and one in six children who are food insecure. They do not have reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food. Unfortunately, food security is a strong predictor of health status. When we talk about food insecurity, we are talking about health issues compiling on themselves.

According to Nevada Recycles, a program of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, we throw away more than 171,000 tons of organic waste each year. That is equal to 342 million pounds or 114 pounds of organic waste per person each year. A significant amount of organic material dumped into landfills is actually edible food that people do not consume.

I know I have been guilty of this. At times, I buy too much food at the grocery store and end up throwing it away because it no longer looks as perfect as it did in the store. That does not mean it is inedible; it just means I decided to throw it away. I am not proud of that.

This bill will address both of those issues within our regulatory framework by doing two things: it will increase food security by codifying the Governor's Council on Food Security in statute, and it will establish the Food for People, Not Landfills Program. It will not change the regulatory structure of food recovery. However, it will allow us to create a vessel to study those

mechanisms. If there are good ideas in the future, we will be able to bring them to this body.

Former Governor Brian Sandoval originally established the Council on Food Security in 2014 by executive order. The Council's purpose was to implement the goals of the "2013 Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan of Action" and effectively improve the quality of life and health of Nevadans by increasing food security throughout the State.

Sections 1 through 9 talk about the Council on Food Security. Section 7 creates the Council in statute and outlines its membership.

JODI TYSON (Three Square Food Bank):

This bill will allow us to have conversations about what it means to have adequate food resources through food banks and charitable agencies in our network. Since the executive order in 2014 creating the Council, it has spent much time in the last 5 years addressing how to increase participation in federal nutrition programs. This is an opportunity for us to also look at available resources we can use through the charitable system.

The proposed amendment relates to the membership of the Council ([Exhibit M](#)). Former Governor Brian Sandoval understood that food insecurity is the result of complex and diverse challenges. The Council's strength would come from building consensus across multiple sectors. Therefore, the Council was created with 15 prescribed appointments who represent their fields as experts and 7 representatives of State agencies who are also experts in their areas of practice.

On paper, this has been great and for the most part it has served us well. The Council has had many successes including legislative successes such as the Breakfast After the Bell program, which was created and implemented through S.B. No. 503 of the 78th Session. This catapulted Nevada's participation rate in school breakfast among eligible students from near bottom of all states and territories to seventh in the Nation.

In 2017, S.B. No. 323 of the 79th Session was passed creating the first "workfare program" ensuring that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients who struggle to maintain employment can meet federal work requirements through volunteerism.

In late 2017, the Council also endorsed a major report detailing gaps in senior nutrition programs that exacerbate food insecurity among seniors over 60 years of age.

With each one of these focuses, children, SNAP, seniors and food rescue, some members are engaged and some members are not. The Council cannot take on all of the issues of food insecurity at the same time. Over the years, members have expressed a desire for the Council to have some flexibility in membership so that membership can align with focuses.

The proposed amendment, [Exhibit M](#), retains all 15 members who were a part of the original executive order, but it only prescribes that 11 of them must be appointed within any calendar year. Therefore, for example, if it is difficult for us to find the right people to represent food distributors, perhaps that is because we are focusing on federal nutrition programs. If we are focusing on seniors, perhaps that is why it is sometimes hard to find a member who represents senior issues, comes to the table and is engaged in all of our many meetings.

This proposed amendment, [Exhibit M](#), affords greater flexibility in Council membership. The amendment also adds one additional State division member and also adds an appointed member from the Legislature. The nine representatives of federal and State agencies or bodies will not outnumber external appointments or nongovernmental representatives.

SENATOR CANCELA:

Section 9 of the bill prescribes the duties of the Council on Food Security which include various responsibilities related to implementation of the "2013 Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action"; advise the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on issues related to food security; advise, assist and make recommendations to the Director for the administration of the Food for People, Not Landfills Program; and submit an annual report to the Director regarding the Council's accomplishments and recommendations.

Section 10 of the bill establishes the Food for People, Not Landfills Program within DHHS. The Director of DHHS will be responsible for administering the Program and setting goals to increase the amount of food diverted from landfills

and used to enhance food security in Nevada. In addition, the Director must establish the criteria for a food donor to participate in the Program.

The proposed amendment, [Exhibit M](#), deletes paragraphs (c) and (d) in subsection 2, section 10. There will be no application fee for a donor to participate in the program.

The Director of DHHS is further required to create an official seal for the Program, allow participating food donors to use the seal and take any other necessary action to help participants achieve the Program's goals. The intent of the Program is to incentivize food recovery by restaurants, retail grocers, food growers, food manufacturers and distributors.

The amendment, [Exhibit M](#), requires the Director to submit a biannual report to the Legislative Counsel Bureau which will contain its accomplishments and its impact on food security in Nevada.

As Legislators, we have a responsibility to improve the food security of Nevadans. This statistic was particularly striking to me. If we were able to recover just 5 percent of the organic waste that is thrown away, we would end hunger for 85,000 Nevadans. There is ample opportunity to do great work.

Today, you will hear from many agencies that are active in food recovery. We should all be proud of their work and support them in their efforts with S.B. 178.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

You referred to some numbers in your opening statements and where they came from in terms of the amount of waste put into landfills. What was the source of that data?

SENATOR CANCELA:

The first set of statistics about Nevada and national food insecurity came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The statistics related to the amount of organic waste discarded in Nevada comes from Nevada Recycles within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

When you are evaluating the long-term success of the Program, setting forth five-year goals for reducing waste and so forth, are those the benchmarks to which you will be looking?

SENATOR CANCELA:

Those are the starting points. The intention is to work with experts on the Council and within DHHS to set appropriate goals to decrease those numbers based on current food recovery levels and projected food recovery levels as a result of the success of the Program.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I want to make sure I am interpreting this correctly. Are the members listed in section 7, subsection 1, voting members?

SENATOR CANCELA:

Yes, the intent is for all of them to be voting members.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

Will the Director of DHHS generate the report?

SENATOR CANCELA:

Yes, that is correct.

CHAIR PARKS:

In section 10, you indicated that there was a proposed deletion of paragraph (d) in subsection 2. Was there another subsection to be deleted?

SENATOR CANCELA:

The proposed amendment, [Exhibit M](#), deletes paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection 2 in section 10.

CHAIR PARKS:

Are you in the process of creating the official seal for the Program? I can understand the significance of doing it and the importance of having something that points to the Program.

SENATOR CANCELA:

The seal will be developed under DHHS working with the Council. The intent is to create a seal that donors participating in the Program can share as part of their materials. They can be recognized as community champions for food recovery. It is not being designed yet but, with the passage of the bill, we would be able to get that moving.

BRIAN BURTON (President/CEO, Three Square Food Bank):

I support S.B. 178. Feeding America is the Nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization. It has two credentialed food banks in Nevada: Three Square Food Bank, serving the southernmost counties of Nye, Lincoln, Esmeralda and Clark, and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), serving the rest of the State. We are united as are our agencies and retail partners in supporting this bill. It is common sense and practical.

Senator Cancela already spoke to the fact that food insecurity is still a large problem in spite of our improving economy. We have a great opportunity through food rescue to close the meal gap which stands at about 11 million meals.

The two food banks are well organized and effective at identifying opportunities and sourcing this usable food that is available through our retail partners. In the past 8 years, since I have been at Three Square Food Bank, we have improved the rescue of available food from about 6 million pounds of food from about 185 retail partners to 17 million pounds of food from almost 300 retail partners. This is attractive, nutritious, diverse food that is inexpensive to acquire. It is a low cost per pound. It is one of the most effective ways for us to close and shrink the meal gap.

Our partners united behind this bill are MGM, Smith's, Kroger, Walmart, Albertsons, Sprouts and Starbucks, just to name a few. We also have one of our flagship partners here today from southern Nevada, Truth Christian Ministries International (TCMI) and its founder Gayla Boyd. It is dependent on this flow of rescue food. Through this bill we can continue to give greater awareness and recognition to these food donors.

There is no limit to the opportunities to acquire more food. In southern Nevada, we estimate increasing rescue food each year by 700,000 pounds over the next 3 years. This will give us a boost and will help our efforts. We are proud of

what we have done; however, we still have miles to go—but this is a solvable problem. With this type of Legislative support, unity, recognition and awareness, Nevada could be one of the first states in the Nation to close the meal gap. We are excited about that.

GAYLA BOYD (Pastor, Truth Christian Ministries International):

I support S.B. 178. We started a food pantry about seven years ago. Every year, we have seen the amount of needy people coming to our pantry increase. In 2017, we fed 105,000 people. In 2018, we fed 123,000 people. We are seeing about 10,000 desperate people come through our doors each month. The lines in front of the church start at midnight, but our doors do not open until 7:00 a.m. It is not unreasonable for someone to be in line for 8 1/2 hours to get a box of food.

We started rescuing food a few years ago. That has brought our costs down from thousands of dollars a year to hundreds of dollars a year. We are rescuing food from 11 stores multiple times per week, which is about 35 stops a week. We spend much time picking up food from different stores.

We are completely run by volunteers. No one gets paid to be part of our food pantry. We have been blessed to have wonderful, caring people from all over the city help us do this great work to feed the hungry.

I am hoping this bill will encourage more stores, restaurants and so forth to join this program. We are short on meat and dairy usually every week. That is why many people arrive at midnight because at a certain point in the day we run out of meat and dairy. I hope more stores will get involved to increase the amount of food we rescue and serve more people in our valley.

In 2018, we gave out 650,000 pounds of food rescued from our donors. The people we usually see at our pantries are elderly, disabled and caseworkers with their clients, but not many homeless. The majority of people are having a hard time because they are in between jobs or are families struggling to make ends meet.

It is an honor to be a partner with Three Square Food Bank and the different organizations. The grocery stores that allow us to rescue food have been great in giving us good food. They are increasing as we build our relationships with



them. We are blessed to be able to do this and serve our community in this way.

WARREN HARDY (Nevada League of Cities):

I am excited to be associated with the people who are testifying in favor of this bill. I have looked at these programs and projects for many years. This is a perfect example of the kind of public-private partnerships that work well to provide the needs of our fellow citizens.

The Nevada League of Cities fully supports S.B. 178. I spoke with the primary sponsor and suggested that perhaps there might be room on the committee for a representative from local government in order to help facilitate any needs of local government. That is the only idea I have to improve this proposal. We would like to make ourselves available to participate in this effort.

SHANE PICCININI (Food Bank of Northern Nevada):

Eliminating food waste at the grocery store and other retail outlets will have a positive impact across Nevada. It will support our work addressing food security, save money, conserve natural resources and, most importantly, help food-insecure families get access to more healthful and nutritious foods.

The fundamental first step is transparency. Setting transparent goals will give every Nevadan an opportunity to understand the impact of food waste in this State. Transparency will help hold all of us accountable to recover as much fresh food as possible for those who are in the most need.

The FBNN has strong relationships with a number of grocery and other retail outlets in the communities we serve. However, there is always more that can be done. This legislation provides the opportunity to bring awareness to our communities and to work as partners to bring useable food to our partner agencies such as the Carson Valley Community Food Closet.

The FBNN welcomes this legislation. We believe that a greater awareness of the importance of increasing our food rescue efforts will translate to healthier families in Nevada.

SARAH SANCHEZ (Director, Carson Valley Community Food Closet):

The Carson Valley Community Food Closet has been serving residents of Douglas County since 1989. Each month, we provide an average of 733 people

with supplemental food. Over the course of a year, that is more than 240,000 meals provided to people in need. The food we distribute comes from many sources such as local food drives, grocery store purchases, the FBNN and gleaning.

Thanks to our partnership with the FBNN, the Food Closet gleans food from nine locations, seven days a week. This includes six grocery stores and three restaurants. The food recovered from local stores and restaurants last year totaled more than 328,000 pounds of food which is nearly half of the food we distribute. As you can imagine, many of the foods donated to our agency are shelf-stable canned and dry goods. Additionally, a significant portion of donations can often fall into the junk food category.

One of the biggest benefits to gleaning is the ability to procure fresh produce. Often the produce is top quality; other times it may be irregularly shaped or have small blemishes. These fruits and vegetables go a long way to help offset the high-sodium, high-sugar products we often receive. Frequently, the gleaned produce includes tomatoes, potatoes, zucchinis, onions and cucumbers. Through gleaning we also receive prepared fruits such as melons and berries, bags of spinach, salad mixes, bananas, apples, oranges, and even the rare dragon fruit, jicama, parsnips or artichokes.

As you can imagine, many of these items are essential for a healthy diet but at times can be pricey and sometimes out of our recipients' budgets. Eating well on a food bank diet can be a challenge for people with health concerns such as diabetes and high blood pressure. With the ability to glean grocery store and restaurant items, each one of our recipients is able to receive produce, meat, dairy, baked goods, canned goods and dried fruit items. Many of our clients come by each day to see what type of produce is available—to grab some greens and take a browning banana to add to a smoothie. Recently, a recipient on chemotherapy cried after receiving a bag of spinach.

Without a doubt, a full bag of gleaned produce, along with dairy and meat items, elicits the biggest response from our clients and provides the best relief to an already tight or nonexistent household food budget.

MACKENZIE BAYSINGER (Human Services Network):

According to Feeding America, 372,820 people in Nevada are struggling with hunger and of those, 138,880 are children. The changes to the Council and the

Senate Committee on Government Affairs  
March 11, 2019  
Page 19

Food for People, Not Landfills Program put forth in this bill will help ensure that we lower that number of people for a stronger Nevada.

I urge you to pass this measure.

CHERIE JAMASON (Director, Ending Hunger Initiative, Food Bank of Northern Nevada):

I have submitted my prepared remarks supporting S.B. 178 ([Exhibit N](#)).

LEA TAUCHEN (Washoe County Food Policy Council):

The Washoe County Food Policy Council is a volunteer public-private partnership established by the Washoe County District Board of Health in 2011. Washoe County Food Policy Council members represent all sectors of the food system for the purposes of networking, collaboration and promotion of access to healthy foods.

The Washoe County Food Policy Council supports S.B. 178. We would like to recognize the important work that has already been conducted by the Council on Food Security and we look forward to its continued efforts to improve the quality of life and health for Nevada's residents.

We would also like to commend the creation of the Food for People, Not Landfills Program. The proposal presents an amazing opportunity for Nevada to lead in both food rescue and waste reduction. Both goals are important. This program will help reduce barriers for food donation thereby minimizing food waste and increasing access to resources for food insecure populations in Nevada.

We urge the passage of S.B. 178.

LIZ MACMENAMIN (Grocery Industry Council, Retail Association of Nevada):

This is an issue that needs to be addressed by each of us in the community as we go forward looking for solutions to the problem of hunger.

The chair of our board, Marsha Gilford, recently discussed her new program called Zero Hunger, Zero Waste. Miss Gilford has also been working in southern Nevada with the Three Square Food Bank. She is passionate about this issue. She has submitted a letter to the Committee supporting this bill ([Exhibit O](#)). One of the things she talks about is how this is an important community effort.

Codifying the Council on Food Security in statute is seen by the Retail Association of Nevada as a positive step in utilizing consumable food for a higher and better purpose. This will take food that would normally be dumped in a landfill to feed people who are hungry and do not have the ability to feed themselves.

The Retail Association of Nevada urges the passage of S.B. 178. It is a positive impact for our community.

JARON HILDEBRAND (Nevada Trucking Association):  
The Nevada Trucking Association supports S.B. 178. We are happy to help with any logistical needs this program may have.

SENATOR CANCELA:

I appreciate the people who work in our communities every day ensuring the hungriest get the food they need.

I would like to note that this is the first bill of the 2019 Session that has every Senator signed on as a cosponsor. I am proud that this Body is behind this work.

Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow.

Senate Committee on Government Affairs  
March 11, 2019  
Page 21

CHAIR PARKS:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 178. Having no further business to come before the Senate Committee on Government Affairs, we are adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Suzanne Efford,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator David R. Parks, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit / # of pages</b>		<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	2		Agenda
	B	8		Attendance Roster
S.B. 15	C	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 34	D	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 35	E	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 66	F	3	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 67	G	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 68	H	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 69	I	3	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 104	J	3	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 182	K	5	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 225	L	1	Jennifer Ruedy	Work Session Document
S.B. 178	M	8	Senator Yvanna Cancela	Proposed Amendment
S.B. 178	N	8	Cherie Jamason / Food Bank of Northern Nevada	Written Testimony
S.B. 178	O	1	Liz MacMenamin / Retail Association of Nevada	Written Testimony from Marsha Gilford