

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARR

Introduced: 2/3/16

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Encouraging schools and businesses to reduce, recover, and recycle food waste.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** 133,000,000,000 pounds of the nation's food supply is not eaten each
4 year, enough to feed 175,000,000 people for an entire year; and

5 **WHEREAS** approximately one in seven residents, approximately 105,000 Alaskans,
6 struggle with hunger in the state; and

7 **WHEREAS** 20 percent of children in the state live in homes that may not have
8 enough to eat, and one in 10 seniors in the state face the threat of hunger; and

9 **WHEREAS** much of the food thrown away each day in the state could be used to feed
10 hungry Alaskans; and

11 **WHEREAS** food banks and pantries in the state work with businesses to make it cost-
12 effective and convenient for food that would otherwise go in the dumpster to be donated to
13 feed hungry Alaskans; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Food Bank of Alaska rescues more than 5,000,000 pounds of food
15 from being wasted annually; and

16 **WHEREAS** smarter school lunchroom strategies, such as composting food waste for

1 use in school gardens to produce healthy Alaska-grown produce for the school, donating
2 excess food to food pantries, extending lunch periods, and allowing students to serve
3 themselves, may significantly reduce food waste; and

4 **WHEREAS** the costs of food and the costs of disposing food are significant and only
5 rising, and thus it makes good financial sense to reduce food waste; and

6 **WHEREAS** there are federal tax incentives for businesses who donate food and
7 reduce waste; and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States Food Waste Challenge was launched in 2013 with the
9 goal of reducing, recovering, and recycling food waste; and

10 **WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2015, Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of
11 Agriculture, and Stan Meiburg, Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator,
12 announced the first-ever national food loss and waste reduction goal, calling for a 50 percent
13 reduction by 2030;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages schools and
15 businesses in the state to reduce, recover, and recycle food waste as a means to help feed
16 hungry Alaskans, reduce the cost of doing business in the state, and help the nation meet the
17 goal of reducing food loss and waste by 50 percent by 2030.