

WHEREAS, Almost 40% of all food produced in the United States is never eaten;¹

WHEREAS, Americans annually throw away \$165 billion worth of food;²

WHEREAS, This is equivalent to discarding approximately 20 lbs. per person-month;³

WHEREAS, This is enough food to fill 730 football stadiums every year⁴;

WHEREAS, The amount of food waste has increased by about 50% since 1974;⁵

WHEREAS, In 2013, 49.1 million Americans were part of food-insecure households;⁶

WHEREAS, This is an extremely wasteful use of labor and resources, including water;⁷

WHEREAS, California is one of the largest food producers, including 84% of American peaches, 94% of American plums, 99% of American artichokes, and 94% of American broccoli;⁸

WHEREAS, California is currently in a significant drought;

WHEREAS, Decomposition of large amounts of food waste produces methane (CH₄), a greenhouse gas 26-34 times as potent as carbon dioxide;⁹

WHEREAS, Grocery stores and other food sellers will purposefully overstock food for purely visual reasons in order to increase sales;¹⁰

WHEREAS, 91% of consumers report occasionally discarding food which has passed its "sell by" date due to safety concerns;¹¹

WHEREAS, Many people incorrectly assume that "sell by" and similar labeled dates on products reflect a uniform safety standard;

WHEREAS, With the exception of baby formula, the federal government does not require any food to carry an expiration date;¹²

WHEREAS, State laws significantly vary on their requirements for such information;¹³

WHEREAS, Nine states do not require any labels at all;¹⁴

WHEREAS, Such dates actually represent a manufacturer's estimate of when a food will be the highest quality (e.g. freshness);¹⁵

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8xwLWb0ILY>

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/05/05/3646965/california-drought-and-agriculture-explainer/

⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8xwLWb0ILY>

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, Producers thus have a financial incentive to make these dates earlier than necessary to encourage grocery stores to replace their products more often;¹⁶

WHEREAS, Such dates are therefore functionally meaningless;

WHEREAS, Many supermarkets throw away “expired” food before their “sell by” dates because people think such dates have an actual meaning;¹⁷

WHEREAS, Many stores mistakenly believe that they face legal liability if someone gets sick from eating such “expired” food;¹⁸

WHEREAS, This results in many supermarkets throwing away such food instead of donating it;¹⁹

WHEREAS, A June 2013 University of Arkansas School of Law study, “Food Recovery: A Legal Guide,” failed to find a single case of such lawsuits;²⁰

WHEREAS, The federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provides legal protection from such lawsuits;²¹

WHEREAS, Earlier this year, France passed a law requiring supermarkets to donate edible food instead of throwing away such food;²²

WHEREAS, The French National Assembly unanimously passed the law;²³

WHEREAS, In Britain, such food is often destroyed by pouring chemicals on such food, thereby preventing hungry people from eating it;²⁴

WHEREAS, People are now working to introduce such a rule for the entire European Union via petition;²⁵ and

WHEREAS, 21% of UC Berkeley students have reported skipping meals to save money “somewhat to very often,”²⁶

WHEREAS, These and other food insecurity crises have led the Associated Students of the University of California to create its own food pantry;

WHEREAS, Food pantries have been created at most UC campuses;

WHEREAS, The Associated Students of the University of California has worked with Berkeley City Councilmember Jesse Arreguin to introduce a similar law in Berkeley;²⁷

WHEREAS, on March 15, the Berkeley City Council unanimously voted to send a moderately amended version of the resolution to the City of Berkeley Zero Waste Commission;²⁸ and

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ qtd. in *Ibid.*

²¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8xwLWb0ILY>

²² http://huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/05/22/france-food-waste-supermarkets-illegal-bans_n_7422686.html

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33907737>

²⁶ dailycal.org/2015/05/04/asuc-president-email-highlight-food-security-developments-uc-berkeley

²⁷ http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Clerk/City_Council/2016/02_Feb/Documents/_2016-02-23_Item_36_Referral_to_City_Manager_Donation.aspx

²⁸ http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Clerk/City_Council/2016/03_Mar/Documents/03-15_Annotated_Agenda.aspx

WHEREAS, The Associated Students of the University of California has called on UC Berkeley to implement similar rules on campus;

WHEREAS, Instituting such a law in California would allow campus food pantries and other nonprofits to better serve needy students and other community members;²⁹ and

WHEREAS, The second-most-popular undergraduate campaign at the 2015 University of California Student Association Congress was *Beyond Survival: A Campaign for Housing and Food Security*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls on the California State Legislature to adopt a law similar to the one passed in France; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association directs UCSA staff to implement the above clause; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association directs its Executive Committee to write a letter to relevant legislators (as determined by the Executive Committee) expressing the relevant sentiments expressed above;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls on the University of California Office of the President and each campus to work towards implementing a similar rule for all establishments on University of California property; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association directs its Executive Committee to write a letter to University of California President Janet Napolitano and each campus's Chancellor expressing the relevant sentiments expressed above; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association calls on its member associations to work to implement such a rule on each campus; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association commits to implementing such a rule across the University of California.

²⁹ <http://pantry.berkeley.edu/>