



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: SB 143		DATE: 4/18/2023	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tax Reform			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE WOODY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-506-7277	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: FOOD POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: christine@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 1:47 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

To: Chairman Ben Baker and The Members of the House Special Committee on Tax Reform From: Christine Woody Food Security Policy Manager Empower Missouri Re: Our support for SB 143

Good afternoon and thank you Members of the Committee for allowing me to speak today. And thank you Sen. Beck for filing this piece of legislation. I am Christine Woody, the Food Security Policy Manager for Empower Missouri. We are a statewide non-profit organization that leads a statewide coalition addressing food security and food access. The Food Security Coalition is made up of individuals and organizations who are working to ensure every Missourian has access to healthy and nutritious food and that Missouri has a strong safety net for those who need it. Over 12% of Missourians struggle with food insecurity with roughly 810,000 people living in poverty. Exacerbating this is the existence of over 100 food deserts across the state, affecting every region from St. Louis to Kansas City including rural communities in every corner of the state. Food deserts are particularly frequent all along our southern state border. When Missouri families live in a food desert, they often struggle with access to healthy, nutritious foods, including fruits, vegetables, and lean protein. Families often end up eating more processed foods that are purchased at gas stations or convenience stores such as Family Dollar. This type of diet can lead to serious medical conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Therefore, passing the bill like the one proposed by Sen. Beck which provides incentives for businesses to open traditional, full-service grocery stores that include fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and fresh protein in food deserts not only reduces hunger across the state, but will reduce state-funded medical costs as well. Missouri already offers a wide variety of tax credits to businesses, including the Business Facility Headquarters Tax Credit, the Enhanced Enterprise Zone, the Wine & Grape Tax Credit, the Rebuilding Communities program, and the Quality Jobs Programs, just to name a few. And our legislature has consistently found that tax credits are a useful incentive to new businesses across the state, creating jobs, attracting new residents, and building long-term tax revenue for the state. We believe that SB 143 is a quality candidate to join these other tax credit programs to produce all of these same benefits for the state while also decreasing food insecurity and improving health outcomes for low-income families. We respectfully ask this committee to pass SB 143.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHUCK PIERCE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-2722	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MO		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1073			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: D. SCOTT PENMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-6772	
REPRESENTING: EMPOWER MO		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 684			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID OVERFELT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-2524	
REPRESENTING: MO RETAILERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1336			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID SAMUEL OVERFELT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-230-6006	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI GROCERS ASSOCIATION; MISSOURI RETAILERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO 1336, 618 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY/MO/65101		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: dave@moretailers.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 10:30 AM
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We support the food dessert tax credits and believe the sales tax exemptions will be beneficial to our consumers. Products should be fully exempt from all state and local sales taxes to stay in compliance with the SCOTUS ruling that sales taxes need to be simplified and fair in order to collect taxes from beyond our borders, Internet etc. This bill takes that directive into account. Missouri's food rate complies since it is based on items that qualify for SNAP which is programmed into retailers' systems annually due to changes at the federal level.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GABRIELLE KYRIE MURPHY		PHONE NUMBER: 636-614-8539	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 201 JESSE HALL			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65211
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GAY LITTEKEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-819-5914	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FIRST CHANCE FOR CHILDREN		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1002 FAY ST.			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JACK GAMBLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE ALLIANCE OF YMCAS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE MORRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 600 CLARK AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: morrisj@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 8:38 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: NATIONAL REALTY ADVISORS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E. CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MADISON EACRET		PHONE NUMBER: 314-882-1007	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: OPERATION FOOD SEARCH		TITLE: PUBLIC POLICY COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 1644 LORSIE BOULEVARD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63132
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: UNIVERSITY CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:14 PM
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April 18, 2023 Chairman Ben Baker Special Committee on Tax Reform MO House of Representatives 201 W Capitol Ave., Rm 403-A Jefferson City, MO 65101 Dear Chairman Baker and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. Senate Bill 143 provides a variety of opportunities to address food insecurity plaguing our state while supporting the next generation of specialty crop farmers to set up their operations where nutritious fruits and vegetables are needed most. For these reasons, we urge this committee to support SB 143. SB 143 creates two tax incentives that will support economic opportunity in communities with limited healthy food access and transform them into communities where fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods are accessible and affordable. These spaces with limited healthy food access are referred to by the government as "food deserts." Together, these two tax incentives will provide opportunities for food deserts in both urban and rural areas. The first tax incentive for grocery stores gets to the root of food access. Our communities need full service grocery stores that are open when hardworking Missourians are not at work, that have a variety of healthy foods for these folks to feed their families, and that are within close proximity to their homes. Food deserts are places where the majority of the residents are low income and either live more than a half mile from a grocery store in an urban area or more than ten miles from a grocery store in a rural area. Below is a map of the food deserts throughout Missouri and it is clear that we need more grocery stores throughout our state. The overwhelming majority of Missouri House Districts contain food deserts, as illustrated by blue checkered census tracts in the maps below. This demonstrates just how necessary this bill is in order to help feed Missourians across the state. Map of Missouri's Food Deserts Low income households often struggle with food insecurity, whether they live near a grocery store or not. The USDA reports that Missouri over a 3 year average had a food insecurity rate of 12%. Looking more closely into their data on a more severe level of food insecurity called "very food insecure," you will see that Missouri ranks among the highest. The USDA indicates 5.6% of Missourians are very food insecure - fourth highest in the nation. I've outlined the rankings of "very food insecure" in a table below.

State	Percentage of Population that is Very Food Insecure
Arkansas	6.3%
South Carolina	5.9%
Louisiana	5.7%
Missouri	5.6%
Mississippi	5.5%
West Virginia	5.2%
Texas	5.0%

It is long overdue to bring more grocery stores into Missouri's food deserts and this tax incentive will make that possible. In addition, with a tax incentive, stores will be able to sell products at the most affordable prices, ensuring low income households can feed their families. The second tax incentive that will bring an innovative solution to improving healthy food access, will also help the next generation of farmers plant their roots in communities where their products will be needed most. SB 143 also provides a tax incentive for small-scale specialty crop farmers in rural food deserts. Urban food deserts are not addressed in this bill because last year, a tax incentive for urban farms was already

created. This bill recognizes the need to support aspiring farmers to come into urban communities as well to bring fruits and vegetables where healthy food access is lacking. Missouri imports over \$38 million in preserved fruits and vegetables, over \$29 million in vegetables and over \$11 million in fruit and nuts (2020). But there's no need to import because Missouri can be more self-sufficient! We have plenty of small-scale farmers who could grow more if they were given more support and many aspiring farmers eager to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables for Missouri families! Increasing Missouri fruit and vegetable production would also help local economies be more self-reliant in supplying their own nutritious food. Missouri isn't just capable of being more self-sufficient, it wants to be. Missouri consumers want more Missouri-grown produce and this tax incentive would help aspiring farmers start their farms where communities need their fruits and vegetables most. The demand for Missouri-grown products is evidenced by the variety of local food resources developed in parts of the state to help consumers find small-scale producers near them. With more fruit and vegetables grown, more product will be available to sell at farmers markets, to restaurants, and to communities' grocery stores. What a great opportunity for low income parts of rural Missouri to be hubs for fruit and vegetable production.

Rural Food Deserts Would Benefit From More Specialty Crop Farms. Missouri has specialty crop farms in every county, though very few in some of the most food insecure counties, examples below:

County	Farms with Vegetables	Farms with Fruits and Nuts	Orchards	Farms with Berries	
Benton	3286	Bollinger	12343	Douglas	71915
Laclede	13512	Madison	2000	Oregon	3233
Ozark	10265	Puett	2111	Ripley	7065
Schuyler	6010	Shannon	113103	Washington	13277
Wayne	2174	County with greatest number of farms in each specialty crop category			

Jackson: 54
Vernon: 74
Vernon: 82
Boone: 31

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment respectfully asks you to vote "yes" on SB 143 in order to foster these great economic opportunities to bring jobs through farming and supermarkets into low income areas facing limited healthy food access. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Melissa Vatterott, JD Policy Director Missouri Coalition for the Environment mvatterott@moenvironment.org (314) 727-0600, ext. 111



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BERG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-1011	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1459 GREGG AVE.			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MURIEL SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-624-0888	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS AREA DIAPER BANK; MISSOURI COALITION OF DIAPER BANKS		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 6141 ETZEL AVENUE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63133
EMAIL: msmith@stldiaperbank.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 8:27 PM
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St. Louis Area Diaper Bank and the Missouri Coalition of Diaper Banks supports SB 143. This bill will help more than hundreds of thousands of families annually who purchase diapers and or feminine hygiene products. One in three families are routinely unable to afford this basic necessity, forcing them to reuse diapers by lining them with newspaper, repairing them with duct tape and scraping them "clean." Infants require up to 12 diapers per day; toddlers need about 8. With disposable diapers costing \$100 or more per month, low-income families frequently must choose between buying diapers or putting food on the table, paying the rent or keeping the utilities on. The toxic family stress and child-health issues created by this shortage have lifelong consequences for children. Moms with insufficient diapers are 3 times more likely to suffer anxiety and depression. Dirty diapers cause open sores that make babies sick and fussy – increasing the chance of child abuse. Diaper need also impacts family financial security. Low-income parents miss over 2 days of work every month because they have no diapers to leave with their child's daycare providers, which is typically required. At minimum wage, this translates to \$150 in lost monthly income. St. Louis Area Diaper Bank will distribute 4,000,000 diapers to 75,000 families in the St. Louis region in partnership with 75 community organizations. Stress on the families who are already struggling to manage their resources, Covid 19 affected income, job opportunities, daycare issues, remote learning all things which add stress to families. Covid 19 has caused a current dramatic increase in need among families in our service area. With 30,000 Missourians newly unemployed, more families are seeking help for essentials. As the impact of lost employment continues, this need will not resolve anytime soon. Since COVID-19 began to impact our community in early April, we have distributed diapers directly to low-income families. With 25 - 30% of Missourians newly unemployed, we have had many desperate families who have never before needed assistance coming to use emergency sites for assistance. Our partner agencies report seeing an increase in client registrations since the beginning of the pandemic. The need has been intense and persistent. We foresee this trend continuing and likely increasing as we move into the summer months and families deplete their limited resources, navigate an uncertain economy and deal with the continued effects of the economic crisis. Our program supports those who meet poverty-level guidelines, and we work with partner agencies to help us determine the need. Many of our local partners offer case management and home visiting programs, our program assists these organizations by providing them with a basic need item such as diapers and period supplies to give to the clients at their visit. Clients have reported they are more likely to keep appointments with their case workers knowing they will be receiving diapers and period supplies. We are giving those who work directly with the clients a resource to help them work with their clients to break the cycle of poverty and make a change in their lives. Approximately 60% of stakeholders indicated in the community needs survey that

childcare and child welfare support were important issues to address. Long term, data demonstrates that diapers have a dramatic impact on nearly every aspect of a family's life - from the physical and mental health of parents and children to a family's overall financial stability. Giving diapers to families is an intervention with both immediate and long-lasting impacts. As soon as a child has a clean diaper their physical and emotional distress is lowered. As soon as a parent has a diaper they have a powerful tool that encourages positive bonding with their child. As soon as a family has the diapers they need a significant portion of financial burden is lifted. Giving families tax relief when they have to purchase diapers or feminine hygiene products will help lift them out of poverty and boost the economy for all Missourians.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBYN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBER: 660-441-3260	
REPRESENTING: KIDS WIN MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3909 SHERMAN CT			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: rschelp@kidswinmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2023 2:45 PM
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My name is Robyn Schelp and I am the Director of Policy and Advocacy for Kids Win Missouri. We advocate on issues of child well-being including early care and education, healthcare, and other issues which impact children. Kids Win Missouri supports SB 143, both the tax credits for food pantries and grocery stores in food deserts, as well as the sales tax exemption for diapers and feminine products. Food security is important for adults and children. According to Feeding America, one in nine people face hunger in Missouri, a statistic which increases to one in seven for children. Missouri has over 100 food deserts. MOST Policy Initiative estimates that over 25% of Missourians do not have easy access to affordable and nutritious food. This legislation helps make food more available to those who need it by supporting food pantries and by encouraging the establishment of grocery stores in food deserts. Diapers are currently taxed as a luxury. As the mom of three boys, one with a disability, who has purchased diapers for seventeen years straight, I can assure you diapers are a necessity. Missouri families with infants and toddlers, as well as children and adults with disabilities, would greatly benefit from a tax exemption on diaper products. Feminine products are also a necessity which should not be taxed as if they were a luxury.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239	
REPRESENTING: ST. LOUIS AREA DIAPER BANK		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN BELGER ANGULO		PHONE NUMBER: 913-940-4450	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HAPPY BOTTOMS		TITLE: CO-EXEC. DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 303 WEST 79TH ST.			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64114
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/14/2023 7:50 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/18/2023 11:58 PM

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I am Opposed to this Tax-Credit and Government Giveaway.