[YOUR LETTER HEAD]

**Subject: Ensure a Food Secure Tomorrow for All Ohioans**

Dear [MEMBER],

[YOUR ORGANIZATION] respectfully requests your support to increase funding for foodbanks in the FY 2024-2025 State Biennial Budget to help our vulnerable neighbors in these difficult times.

For more than two decades, the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio (Second Harvest) and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Ohio’s largest charitable response to hunger, has successfully partnered with the State of Ohio to feed hungry Ohioans through the Ohio Food Program and the Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP). Our organization, [YOUR ORGANIZATION], is a member of this vital network that serves the hungry Ohioans in your district.

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks, in partnership with Second Harvest, is respectfully requesting $50 million per year over the FY 2024-2025 biennium ($100 million total) to be allocated for the Ohio Food Program & Agricultural Clearance Program and capacity building resources for charitable organizations.

This funding will allow Ohio’s statewide hunger relief network to direct the maximum amount of state dollars available to Ohioans who need it most, putting food on the tables of Ohio families, positioning our children to be healthy and ready to learn, protecting the welfare of our senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, and setting the anti-hunger, pro-agriculture standard among states.

Through our partnership with Second Harvest, we benefit directly from their ability to procure center-of-the-plate and shelf-stable foods and direct surplus and unmarketable agricultural products form nearly 100 Ohio farmers and producers through the state’s network of foodbanks and onto the tables of Ohio families, ensuring a source of nutritious, Ohio-raised food for Ohioans experiencing food hardship.

**Last year, [Your Organization] distributed nearly XX pounds of fresh produce and shelf-stable foods through these programs, providing XX meals to feed seniors, families and low-income individuals.**

While much of the food we receive is sourced through charitable donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and manufacturers**, support from the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly for our state-funded programs is critical because we do not have the ability to consistently serve the high need alone without the support of Ohio**.

We look forward to your feedback and your support on our funding request.

Thank you,

[Your Signature Block with Contact Information and Address)