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August 15, 2016

Mr. James Savage
Tax Policy Analyst
Virginia Department of Taxation
P.O Box 27185 Richmond, VA 23261-7185

Dear Mr. Savage:

On behalf of the Virginia Agribusiness Council, we respectfully submit the following comments regarding the Food Crop Donation Tax Credit Draft Guidelines. The Virginia Agribusiness Council supported the passage of the legislation that established the food donation program in 2016.

After reviewing the draft guidelines and consulting with some of our members who currently provide these services to food banks, we wish to associate ourselves with the comments submitted by Mr. Matt Lohr, Director of the Knowledge Center at Farm Credit of the Virginias, and Mr. Andrew Smith with the Va. Farm Bureau Federation requesting that the timeline for submission of documents and applications to TAX be moved up to allow the donor to have adequate time to prepare the tax filings for submission prior to the May 1 deadline. In addition, as Mr. Lohr and Mr. Smith both point out, in order for a donor to reflect their donation accurately on their State return, the donor should be notified by April 1 of the eligible amount that has been approved by TAX.

We do agree with the proposed allocation of the credit via a pro-rata share in order to allow producers across the state who donates crops during different seasons to food banks to benefit from the credit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft guidelines of this new program.

Katie Frazier
President