

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor, State of Washington

Major General Bret D. Daugherty  
The Adjutant General, Washington Military Department

Dear Governor Inslee and Major General Daugherty,

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to the unprecedented food continuity issues in our state and in the Spokane region. **We are writing in strong support of continued deployment of the National Guard at our food banks for the foreseeable future. It will be crucial to responding to increased food insecurity for the long term.**

Air National Guard members are providing much-needed stability and productivity in Second Harvest's two warehouses in Eastern Washington. Currently, 30 Guard members are deployed to Second Harvest in Spokane. Second Harvest had been relying on 8,000 volunteers annually to support efforts to get food to where it's needed most throughout the region. Many of Second Harvest's regular volunteers are elderly and the most vulnerable to the coronavirus outbreak. At a time when volunteer support is limited due to COVID-19 concerns, Guard members are addressing a critical need to process bulk donations of produce, frozen foods and dry goods. We are could not be more appreciative and grateful for their needed presence in our area.

They accomplish an incredible amount of work to support mission-critical activities—four times the level of a typical group of volunteers. They also support Second Harvest's Mobile Market free food distributions, which have more than doubled to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. **Guard members are the reason Second Harvest is able to deliver close to \$1 million worth of donated food a week right now.**

National Guard members are an important part of our major food bank's emergency response plan to sustain services to hunger-relief partners while there is still much uncertainty. As unemployment rates soar to historical highs, more people will be landing in food bank lines and Second Harvest's network will be navigating unprecedented need for quite some time.

Thank you again for calling upon these heroes to be an important help to our communities to ensure our critical food banks remain stocked and operational. Finally, thank you for your attention to our request and strong support for continued deployment.

Best regards,



Representative Marcus M. Riccelli  
3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



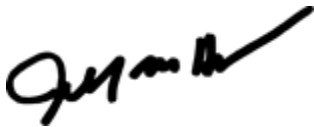
Senator Andy Billig  
3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Representative Timm Ormsby  
3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Senator Shelly Short  
7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Jeff Holy  
6<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Joe Schmick  
9<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Representative Jenny Graham  
6<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



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City of Spokane



Mayor Chris Grover  
City of Cheney



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Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich  
Spokane County Sheriff