

**My name is Catherine Hoover and I am a social worker
Have a clinical license and am credited with our national association NASW of
which I am a member.**

**Some people think social workers are JUST DO GOODERS
I admit to that, yes I TRY TO DO GOOD, AT LEAST DO NO HARM**

**I admit that I care that there are hungry people in America and I want to do
something about it. There are hungry people in Georgia and hungry people living
here in the Valdosta area**

**I don't think there is a legislator in our country who would publicly say—
I DON'T CARE THAT THERE ARE HUNGRY PEOPLE
I DON'T THINK THE GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO
ADDRESS THIS**

**If they did they wouldn't get elected again, it wouldn't help our countries world
image sending foreign aid abroad and not addressing our own problems.**

**State Legislators in our area do feel—YES, let's address this in the best most
efficient practical way possible to use all of our state resources including both public
and non-profit private work.**

**BUT our General Assembly this spring didn't get to make the decision to cut the
sales exception tax to private non-profit organizations like Second Harvest Food
Bank—A few people made the disastrous decision, no exemptions were voted out of
committee.**

**If I understand this right, the logic used—THERE ARE SO MANY GROUPS
ASKING for sales tax exemption, it will be fair that none of them will get
exceptions.**

**THAT'S NOT FAIR, THAT'S LAZY—not wanting to do homework to look at the
bigger picture, listen to reason to try to determine, for example, what's the best way
to meet hunger needs recognizing private non-profits are needed to supplement
government programs and they get to be efficient often using volunteer labor and
use products that would otherwise be wasted and buy surplus at bargain rates as
Second Harvest does distributing free of charge.**

**Taxing food banks may collect \$471,000 in taxes but that money has been buying 2
million pounds in food but maybe not any more.**

**It is such a hard decision to make—Second Harvest versus maybe farmers asking
for sales exceptions on new farm equipment—Second Harvest should get the tax
break. Besides if the farmer has hard times, he may need the help of a food bank
since typically farmers are not eligible for most public assistance programs because
on paper that have farm assets which isn't necessarily money to buy food for their
family**

I know the state is facing hard times, there are fiscal restraints. When the state talks about cutting state expenses they are talking about cutting Human Resource and Community Health budgets. EVERYONE IS TIGHTNING THEIR BELT and we know it is not over.

WITH THE TAX COMMISSIONERS' DECISION NOT TO ALLOW ANY SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS TO AGENCIES LIKE SECOND HARVEST OR OTHERS WHOSE CASE COULD ALSO BE ARGUED, Georgia has changed the meaning of Ben Franklin's old adage—

IN GEORGIA, A PENNY SAVED EARNS NOTHING AND IN THE BIG PICTURE CAN COST 2 MILLION IN LOST FOOD SUPPLIES THAT ARE DELIVERED TO HUNGRY PEOPLE AS WELL AS OTHER PROBLEMS

PLEASE RECOMMEND TO SUPPORT TAX POLICY DECISIONS THAT DO GOOD, AND NOT HARM