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***Senate Farm Bill Passes with Wide Bipartisan Vote of 86 to 11
Senator Brown and Senator Portman demonstrated true bipartisanship***

Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks:

“The Ohio Association of Foodbanks, our 12 Feeding America Foodbanks, 3,300 member charities and the 2 million Ohioans we serve commend and thank Senators Brown and Portman for supporting the Senate farm bill and rejecting an amendment that would have taken away food assistance from many Ohioans and imposed burdensome requirements on SNAP participants and our state.

“We now urge Senators Brown and Portman to continue standing up for hungry Ohioans and Ohio’s strong agriculture producers by working with their colleagues to ensure that the final version also protects SNAP and continues to provide additional food for our foodbanks with increased funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) that the Senate included.

“The overwhelmingly bipartisan vote today in favor of the Senate farm bill demonstrates that a farm bill that protects food assistance for over 40 million Americans and nearly 1.4 million low-income Ohioans is the right way forward.

“In contrast to the partisan House farm bill narrowly passed last week, which would take away food assistance from millions of Americans through cuts and harmful changes to SNAP, the Senate farm bill protects and strengthens SNAP.

“The Senate bill affirms that SNAP is one of our nation’s most powerful and effective poverty-reduction programs, and it builds on the strong history of SNAP supporting work by dedicating more funding for states to try innovative solutions to helping SNAP participants get and maintain a job.

“The Senate bill is the right approach: it protects basic food assistance and renews our shared vow to prevent our neighbors and friends from going hungry.”

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About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio’s largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2017, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 216 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association has

also served as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank since 2006. Follow the [association](#) on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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