



IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT | 2019

2019 IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT
Iowans United in Fighting Hunger – At Home and Abroad
October 14, 2019 - Des Moines, Iowa

HUNGER SUMMIT LUNCHEON
Keynote: Suzanne P. Clark
October 14, 2019

Welcoming Remarks

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn

President, World Food Prize Foundation

16:12

So we've had a great morning, and now we're going to continue with a great program here at lunch. It's painful to me. This is my last Hunger Summit Luncheon and my last Hunger Summit. It was painful this morning. We had a wonderful program, but I gave a retrospective, and mine was the least interesting presentation of the morning. So it just got better after mine. We had the wonderful new bishop, Bishop William Joensen, Catholic bishop of Des Moines, gave the opening keynote. Thank you so much, Reverend Joensen, for being with us. And then that was followed by the Fireside Chat—David Beckmann and Tony Hall. I just got to ask them questions. They were sensational. And then the morning Feeding America address, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot. Claire, where are you? I hadn't had a chance to say hi. She's sensational—wow! And then a panel of six food bank executives—what insights they brought to all of this. So it was just a great morning, and we continue here at lunch.

So one of my goals is to have 500 organizations sign up in the Iowa Hunger Directory, so we're somewhere like at 480-something. So if you go to IowaHungerSummit.org, sign up your organization, get me over 500. My boss, John Ruan, the chairman of our foundation is here. You know, I worked the Dubuque Pack on piecemeal rate, so that's what I've got here. So get me over 500—Come on! And I was going to say—and if you don't, you know, I may threaten to stay around, so now you have real incentive.

So this morning I talked about how the Hunger Summit got started, and we had a wonderful lookback at this. And I said there was a critical moment that came when—How are we even going to pay for a lunch. And the Iowa Farm Bureau stepped forward, and Craig Hill did that. And so, Craig, could I entice you to come up and say a few words about this? Craig and Farm Bureau have not just been sponsor, they have been a great friend organizationally and personally to me. And so I want to just say here in front of everybody how grateful I am from the bottom of my heart to you, everybody at the Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Financial, for what you've done, for your support, but most of all for your friendship.



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Craig Hill

President, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

Thank you, Ambassador Quinn. What a beautiful day in Iowa, what a gorgeous day, and what a great way to kick off not only the Iowa Hunger Summit but the whole week of activities with the World Food Prize. And so it's a pleasure for me to be here, and I want to welcome you and thank you all for being here today.

The Iowa Farm Bureau is a member-based general farm organization, and we have about 156,000 families across the state of Iowa that belong to our organization. We represent farmers and advocate for farmers, but we also provide a whole range, scope of benefits to membership. And one of those benefits is insurance services—property, casualty, life, annuity and other financial services. And so I'm here today not only as a farmer, which I live about 30 minutes southeast of here and farm with my family, but representing the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation as their president and representing also Farm Bureau Financial Services.

So I want to thank you all for being here. I want to submit to you also that, you know, I would say that Iowa, or let's say agriculture, is the most essential industry in the state of Iowa. And I would say agriculture is probably the most essential industry in America, and the most essential industry globally, and the most essential industry to humanity. And farmers, Iowa farmers specifically, are at the epicenter of that. So we're very proud to be here as farmers and to represent farmers in this way.

I would also submit to you that every family around the world without exception wants their family to enjoy wholesome, nutritious and abundant food. They want healthy living. They want a better life. It's a common thread, and I would tell you that they want these things to come from farmers, and they want farmers to not only do that but do a great job in protecting our natural resources. So at the intersection of food and natural resources, you will find farming and farmers. Together we have a moral responsibility to ensuring that generations will thrive and live without hunger, an awesome responsibility, but one that we're eager to take on.

So thank you for being here. I want to welcome you to your final year celebrating all that we've done throughout the course of time. So thank you.

Ambassador Quinn

Thank you, Craig. So one of the great things about the Hunger Summit is that we bring together a bipartisan gathering. Politics are put aside, because the one thing that really unites all Iowans is confronting hunger, alleviating suffering.

Governor Kim Reynolds, thank you so very, very much for being here today. Let's welcome the Governor. Congresswoman Cindy Axne is here today. Congresswoman, thank you so very, very much for being here with us. John and Janis Ruan are both here as well. Suzanne Clark, I'll introduce you later. R.W. and Mary Nelson—you'll be hearing about them. And Samantha Reed is here at the head table. I'm going to tell



you about her. Attorney General Tom Miller is here. Yeah, Mike Nague, and there's secretary, welcome to you, and that's Deputy Secretary Julie Kenney there. Chris Kramer is here. I'm sure we have everybody there. Who else? Who am I going to miss? You know, I'll be in trouble. And Sam Wong is here. And the Lieutenant Governor. Oh, there. Oh, gosh, I'm in trouble. Lieutenant Governor, Adam Gregg, thank you so much, Lieutenant Governor, for being here with us. Yeah, that's why I never went into politics.

So one of the wonderful things that we have done this year is to bring art together with agriculture and bringing attention through the arts to great achievements in agriculture. So we had a high school poster contest, and we had a number of very exceptional entries. But the top one came from a student in the Des Moines Christian School, Samantha Reed. Samantha, come on up here. You come over here, and you can all now reveal to everyone your poster. There it is. Norman Borlaug's famous quote, *Food is the moral right of all who are born into our world*—when you walk into the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, the first words that you see. What a terrific depiction of this. Congratulations.

So, Governor, could I get you to come up and have a picture with Samantha and her poster? And then I will introduce you for your remarks. I'll keep this—yeah? Now wait, come on now. So I think we have about 200 of them—right? Are they downstairs? They're right here in the back of the room. So I don't know—are you prepared to sign them later, Samantha? Yeah-huh? And then you can accept, you know, contributions. But we'll keep it here. All right? And then you can go back down to the table.

So every year... Last year the Governor was sick, very sick, and she made it here because she said, "I just can not be here," despite how ill she was that day. And that has been my experience with the Governor when she was the lieutenant governor. I remember meeting here when she was first running in 2010 and has been someone committed to Dr. Borlaug's legacy, to the World Food Prize all through her time as Lieutenant Governor and now as Governor of our state, our first female governor. And I have to say this is a pretty cool table. We have a female representative of congress, first female executive of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I feel really good that the World Food Prize has assembled that gathering but particularly to be able to welcome to the stage for her welcoming remarks, Governor Kim Reynolds.

Norman Borlaug Day Proclamation

The Honorable Kim Reynolds

Governor, State of Iowa

Well, thank you, ambassador, for that very nice introduction, and it is great to be here. I had vertigo, which I had never had that before, so it was kind of challenging to not move my head too quick, because I felt like I was going to keep going over.



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But anyway as we gather today to celebrate our great hero, Dr. Norman Borlaug, I want to express my great appreciation to John Ruan III and Ambassador Ken Quinn for the World Food Prize Foundation's initiative in starting and building the Iowa Hunger Summit over the past 13 years. Ambassador Quinn, as you retire, I know everyone joins with me in expressing our gratitude for all that you've accomplished in carrying forward Dr. Borlaug's legacy.

I'd also like to echo Ambassador Quinn's appreciation to Craig Hill and the team at Iowa Farm Bureau and the Farm Bureau Financial Services, both for sponsoring this important event and for being an ever-present friend to Iowa farmers for generations. Craig, thank you for your leadership.

Today we're here to add our voices to the chorus that rings through the halls of the World Food Prize laureates. It's a battle cry in the fight against hunger as we recognize Iowans who are making a difference in lives around the world. Back in 2006, former governors, Governor Ray and Governor Branstad, along with sitting Governor Tom Vilsack, recognized the essential strengths of our great state—fertile soils, rich resources, our shared heritage in agriculture, and of course our greatest asset by far, and that's our people. They realized that we had the potential within our state to start to solve food insecurity and issued a call to Iowans to step up and participate in the fight against hunger. And I'm so pleased to be here today to carry on what these three great governors began.

It's an event that's changing lives—from young hunger heroes like Samantha Reed whose poster was chosen as the inaugural winner of the Borlaug Day Poster Contest. And I love this idea. It fits right into STEM and STEAM, and I am sure that Samantha is going to inspire a whole bunch of young people to participate in this poster contest next year. So thank you for being a part of that, and congratulations on being selected. And they said they had over 170 students that are participating today through breakouts and conversations, and I think that is incredible, the number of young people that wanted to be here and be a part of it.

To our keynote speaker, Suzanne Clark, the president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, whose national insight and leadership in the private sector will spark innovation and ideas that will build on the work of the Hunger Summit. To the person sitting beside you at your table, we're here to learn from each other, collaborate, and sharpen our focus on how we can permanently eradicate food insecurity in our state and around the world.

In the spirit of Norman Borlaug, the Iowa Hunger Summit challenges each of us to question the status quo, seek methods to achieve more with less, to take the resources available, and shape them into something better. The power of science is in our hands, and we have the potential to make a difference in our communities, our country and the world.

And that's exactly what the founders of Kemin Industries, R.W. and Mary Nelson, have built their company on—the principles of servant leadership, and are



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committed to the lives of others, not only in their immediate community but throughout our state and around the globe. It's an honor to recognize R.W. and Mary with the 2019 Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award. Your story is truly an example for others to follow. You and your team genuinely follow the humanitarian spirit of the late Governor Ray and embodies exactly what Iowa SHARES and the Hunger Summit are all about. It's because of selfless Iowans like the Nelsons, the many Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award recipients before them, and the next generation of humanitarians like Samantha, that I am optimistic about the years ahead.

With the statue placed in Statuary Hall in Washington, DC, the World Food Prize finding its rightful home at the Norman Borlaug Hall of Laureates in downtown Des Moines and his family farm, beautifully preserved outside Cresco, Iowa, and this week's events surrounding the World Food Prize, it's clear that Dr. Borlaug's legacy will thrive for generations.

Iowa's future and the Borlaug tradition are in excellent hands because of our ability to connect the desire to improve humanity with the next generation's ingenuity to solve the challenges of food insecurity of tomorrow.

So as I sign the 2019 Proclamation naming October 16th as Dr. Norman Borlaug's World Food Prize Day in Iowa, I am also continuing that great bipartisan tradition by urging all Iowans to come together, both to remember the great achievements of Dr. Borlaug and also to recall that basic underlying principle that makes all Iowans unite when people are suffering, and especially suffering from hunger.

So as the governor, it's my honor to sign the proclamation today and present it to Ambassador Quinn.

Ambassador Quinn

Thank you, Governor. That was terrific, wasn't it? Another round of applause for Governor Reynolds.

So you were so nice to mention the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, and I have to be sure. You know, we don't own it. We lease it from the City. And Mayor Cownie is here, Frank Cownie. Where are you? Mayor over there. So I want to be sure I acknowledge him; otherwise, you know, he'll be over checking for leaks, and are we keeping the place up or not. But, no. Thank you for this wonderful part. Thanks for being here as well.

Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award Presentation

R.W. and Mary Nelson - Founders, Kemin Industries



Ambassador Quinn

So you mentioned R.W. and Mary Nelson, and could we invite you to come up on the stage with us now so that we could present the award to you? So from the first time that I met the Nelsons when I came back to Des Moines from my diplomatic career, I have been so taken with the humanitarian spirit that just flows through them personally and not only through them but to their family. Why don't you come over here so you're the center of attention? And, you know, they donate to so many worthy causes here locally.

But what really got my attention was when the tsunami hit India and wiped out villages, all the fishing boats and the means of earning income. And the Nelsons and Kemin are there in this remote place, bringing money, helping villagers rebuild, even though the people there were as different from them, from most Iowans as they could be. You know, and they speak a different language, they follow a different religion, they come from a different culture, everything about them. And the same in China. Four years later an earthquake in a remote part of Sichuan Province, and the Nelsons are there as well, helping rebuild the school now called the Kemin Hope School. Yes, in Chang Village. And then in Nepal again. So that is the way they truly emulate Governor Robert Ray and Iowa SHARES when he gathered Iowans together to reach out and aid those Cambodian genocide victims who are as different from us as they could be and as far away.

So Governor, if you could come and join with me. These are different. This one is presented to R.W. and Mary Nelson. This one is presented to Mary and R.W. Nelson.

R.W. Nelson

Okay, just a few words. Ken Quinn has been a great friend of ours for many, many years, and said, you know, a lot of interesting things about what we do at our business. But I think the most inspiring thing he's done is certainly promoted World Food Prize and this particular summit. And how important it is to a lot of people around the world. We hear about it. We do business in 90 countries around the world these days, believe it or not. And the starvation is still an issue in a lot of those countries. So I can refer to Ken and all his activities that he's done for the World Food Prize as something to try and think about, at least to start maybe, in their country. So I want to congratulate what you do.

Ambassador Quinn

Oh, thank you, thank you, R.W., thank you. I'm going to let Madeline Goebel come up and tell you about what you're going to have to eat, but I just want to say Madeline is the Director of Community Outreach, and she's the organizer of the Hunger Summit and works so carefully. She was an intern on our staff, went to Drake—that's right—and then now we've hired her as a full-time staff member. She does a sensational job. Would you join and just give her a round of applause of thanks?



Madeline Goebel

Director, Community Outreach, World Food Prize Foundation

All right. Well, it'll be a very short intro, because we have two wonderful videos talking about the lunch we're about to have. The two programs we're going to focus on today are Spend Smart. Eat Smart. that comes out of Iowa State Extension, along with the Double Up Food Bucks Program. And so we'll have the camera roll to the two videos to kind of introduce what we're going to be eating here today. Thanks so much.

—1st VIDEO—

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the 2019 Hunger Summit Luncheon. My name is Christine Hradek, and I coordinate nutrition education and healthy food access programs for Iowans with low income through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Our lunch today is composed of recipes from our Spend Smart. Eat Smart. website. This website, accompanying mobile app and social media help us to reach people across the state and the country with information and tools that make healthy choices easier. Please visit our site for money-saving tips, meal-planning tools, as well as delicious recipes.

To learn more about Spend Smart. Eat Smart., stop by our table in the display area. Thank you for all you do to combat hunger in our community and around the world. Enjoy your lunch.

—2nd VIDEO—

The Earth is full of awesome, fresh things to eat. Double Up Food Bucks helps make sure all Iowans get to enjoy them. The Double Up Food Bucks Program actually to qualified individuals to go to the farmers market, and they can get coupons that will double up their money that they can spend in the farmers market. So it's a way for the community who is in need to actually come and buy fresh produce from farmers who actually would love to get our produce into the hands of everyone involved in our community.

Clients that are on the EBT program will come into our store and purchase fresh produce. For every dollar that they spend, they get a Double Up back at the register to return to our store and re-spend that buck on fresh produce. If they spend \$10, they get \$10 back for the next trip into the store.



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So the families actually, I think, get more purchasing power in their community, and they have more opportunities. Maybe some individuals didn't think they could come to a farmers market or have access to that food. By coming to the farmers market and using the Double Up Food Bucks, they get double their purchasing power.

It's a win, not only for families but also grocery stores and farmers.

Well, we saw a lot more produce. The return trips for the people that are on the program, it makes them more frequently shop the produce department than maybe otherwise they wouldn't, because now they have another spend in the produce department. It's a win-win for us. It's a win for them. It's a win for their children, because they're putting nutritional choices in front of them.

It's changing the way people shop and eat.

Being a part of the program makes me feel really great. I love when people come up to the market table, and I can service everyone in our community, no matter what your situation is. And it just makes me feel good inside.

That's the power of the Double Up.

—LUNCHEON—

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

Suzanne P. Clark

President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Introduction

Ambassador Quinn

1:05

All right, so I hope everyone's enjoyed their lunch. Can we have a nice round of applause for the Marriott staff and the great job they've done? So now it's time for dessert, and I'm about to introduce our speaker who's Suzanne Clark, as you heard me say before, is the first woman to be the president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She has an amazing résumé, having worked at the Chamber before that, was owner of her own business, and she serves on the boards of two major companies. So she knows business from every direction.

She was here last year with us with our great friend Tom Donohue. She's now stepped into his role in an incredibly seamless way. The Chamber is I think the



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largest business representative organization in the world. And we're having a Chamber event tomorrow, bringing people from Africa for a side event all day with Alex Botting and your team. And also our speaker is a graduate, a magna cum laude graduate with a B.A. from Georgetown and an M.B.A.

And so with great appreciation to her for making the trip to be here to give the keynote address at our Iowa Hunger Summit, please welcome Suzanne Clark.

Suzanne P. Clark

President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Okay, I want to be able to tweet about this later, so the first thing we're going to do is a big group selfie. Okay, so lean in. Okay, ready. Smile. Thank you.

Today is Columbus Day, and my 13-year-old does not have school. That picture was really proof that I did this and I'm not just not at home with her. Thank you so much, Ambassador Quinn. I appreciate that introduction. I have spent a lot of good time in Iowa, but I have never done one Iowa dream that I have. And you all have to participate in this. I've always wanted to stand in Iowa and ask one question, and I have high hopes that you're going to be able to answer it.

Is this heaven? Yeah, that's what I've always wanted. Thank you. So, thank you, Governor. I really appreciate that. Thank you for being here. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor, congressman. It really kind of is heaven when you can get state leaders, national leaders, business leaders, nonprofit leaders all in one place like this, particularly on such a pressing and important issue. So thank you again for having me. I'm delighted to be here.

This is such an interesting issue, because it's personal and local and yet it's national and global all at the same time. Whether it's a struggling parent trying to feed their child, a farmer trying to navigate trade policy to get his soybeans overseas, a CEO or a public policy official anticipating the growing pressure on the global food system as the population rises. No matter where you sit and look at this issue, it's compelling. And we know that the issue of food security is not only pervasive, it's only going to get more so.

So it's not an exaggeration to say that this is one of the more enduring and defining challenges facing humankind. And to have people like the Ruans and the World Food Prize right here in the nation's breadbasket be willing to put their time and resources towards solving this challenge is a remarkable thing. And so I think recognizing John and Janis for their work is so important. And I also have to just say that one of the great blessings of my life has been calling John and Janis my friends, so thank you for all you do.

So, you know, I said kind of no matter where you sit at this table, you have a different perspective, and I have kind of three different seats at this table. One is as a board member at AGCO, which is a leading agricultural equipment manufacturer. One is



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as the president of U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the largest business federation in the world. And I also spend a fair amount of my personal time working with a local nonprofit in Washington, DC. So through those three lenses, I'd like to talk about those roles.

What's important in solving a challenge like this is that there is a role for the private sector, a role for the public sector, and a role for the nonprofit sector. And how well we respect each other's roles and come together and collaborate will determine how good we are at solving this challenge.

So let me talk first about the private sector. Ken said that I was a former business owner; this is true. I've represented small business in Washington for a long time, and I have an underlying belief in business' ability to solve problems and how important it is. In fact, I have a personal belief that the most beautiful sentence most people ever hear in their whole life is, "You've got the job." Because that means opportunity, an opportunity for yourself and for your family. But it also means that you can do what the Ruans and so many other business leaders have done, and you can turn and care for others in creating opportunity for others.

For virtually every challenge there's an entrepreneur out there who will dedicate herself wholly to solving a problem or a corporation who will invest richly to innovate. I believe this because I see it every day in business leaders in every sector in every geography in every size of business. When it comes to solving hunger, some of the most ingenious and effective solutions are being pioneered by corporations whose futures depend on their ongoing ability to help feed a growing and changing world.

I'm honored to sit on AGCO's board. AGCO touches every single aspect of the agricultural value chain, and that breadth gives them an incredible opportunity to advance smart solutions for sustainable agriculture. This concept of how are we going to feed the world in an environmentally sustainable way falls square on the shoulders of companies like AGCO. You know the statistics about population growth at the same time as resource depletion, at the same time as changing weather conditions. And what this means for the farmer and what it means for a hungry population. We all know that as living standards rise, so does food demand; there comes a higher demand for animal protein, a higher demand for high-quality food. And yet we're trying to do all of this at a time with limited arable land, at a time again with changing weather, at a time when we're dealing with both water and soil depletion.

So to meet these challenges, it's been really fun, I mean intellectually fun and kind of morally satisfying to go to—as I spent some time this summer—a model farm outside of Peoria, and really look at where is innovation, where is technology part of the answer to this? And it's a pretty big part of the answer to this. The more productive and efficient we can make food production, the more safely and easily we can feed the world's population.



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So watching technology in play... And I just have to admit I know I'm talking to a group of people who know more about this than me. But just as one person spending all that time on a farm this summer, it was wonderful to see technology come together that way. It was wonderful to see what can happen to even a single row of crops when you're applying technology to make sure you're planting at the right level, that you're watering at the right level, as you're watching innovations that allow a farmer to be more profitable, to feed more people more effectively and efficiently. And then to spend time thinking about how those same innovations can be transported to model farms in Africa and really from a ground-up level, help feed the world. It's been a remarkable close-up thing to watch.

And if you just take that one corporate example, we also see at the Chamber how often, when physicists do well, that they then do good, that they turn and care through a foundation or other ways to their communities. So watching AGCO, too, through their foundation—and I know the woman who runs it is here; I had coffee with her this morning—and watching this young woman's face light up about what she's been able to do at a refugee camp in Africa in taking some of these technologies and saying—What if you were sustainable? What if you could grow your own food right here in this refugee camp? It's been just an exciting place to be.

We know that solutions in the private sector come from all sectors, all sizes. And our foundation had a really interesting speaker recently. I think the Ruans were there. There's a young woman from Atlanta, and she started a company called Goodr. Has anybody ever heard of Goodr? Oh, good. I have something new to tell you about. So she was feeding a lot of people in her spare time out of her own kitchen, and she was getting it up to feeding up to 500 people a week and just trying to figure out in her spare time how she could help the hungry in Atlanta. And she got to a point where she thought there was something bigger that she could do. So she now has this company that is a food waste management company that redirects surplus food from businesses to nonprofits—ready for this?—using block chain. So she has developed some remarkable algorithms that help her match people with excess food to people who need that food in a safe and reliable way. So using an app, a company can log on and say what surplus they have. The Goodr team will come to them, safely package the leftovers and immediately transfer them to homeless shelters, senior centers, veterans organizations, etc. It's so simple and so brilliant.

And I'll give you, just to bring it home... I mean they're working with huge groups, airports, big companies, all kinds of groups. But we decided after hearing about them—well, let's try them at the Chamber. So we have about 60,000 people come through our door for events every year, about 2,000 meetings a year, a lot of them catered. And we have been giving what we could to the local homeless organizations, but we couldn't figure out how to do it at scale. Since we started this partnership with Goodr, we've been able to streamline the whole process. We've provided in a very short period of time, not even a year, 2,000 meals and diverted 2300 pounds of food away from a landfill. And that's just our small organization. It's really been a remarkable thing.



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And what's even cooler about Goodr is they decided to do it as a for-profit company, that she thought it would hold her and her team to a higher challenge if they were trying to make money, return money to their investors, etc. And it's working. So now what she's accomplishing is this remarkable feat where companies are getting tax credits for their work. She's feeding a remarkably bigger number of people than she was before. And it all got started at her kitchen table.

So I think if you think about the private sector, whether you're a really big company or whether you're a kitchen table startup, there are ways that you can impact globally, nationally and at a very local level this really important food insecurity problem.

That's the private sector. And if you think about the policy engagement in my day job at the Chamber, the U.S. Chamber exists so that businesses can grow. Our job is to help job creators—that's what we do. Those companies rely on us to be a voice in Washington to try to get public policy right, to advocate for conditions that will help them grow. At a macro level, the Chamber advances a policy agenda that contributes to a growing economy and supports the free enterprise system. We think that's the most essential role that we can play. But of course different industries, different companies have much more specific needs. And we have a team of policy experts who work on them.

Few issues stretch across the whole policy landscape the way food security does. Food security is a tech issue, so when we are out there thinking about how regulators are going to look at tech and make sure that it is regulated in a way that doesn't stifle too much innovation, that's a food security issue.

Food security is also a trade issue, and I know that you've felt that right here in this great state. Trade policy directly affects food volume, market crisis, access to affordable nutrition. There's a direct link, and you all know that. And as we've seen recently with the U.S. China trade tensions and some uncertainty about the future of USMCA, the new NAFTA, trade policy and barriers to trade can be really harmful to farmers and ranchers who grow and raise our food. Trade is a bread and butter issue at the Chamber. We are some of the most ardent champions for a vibrant and open global market. We know it's important to feeding a hungry world.

So it's a tech issue and it's a trade issue, but it's also a supply chain and infrastructure issue, which have long been two Chamber priorities. The U.N. estimates that one third of the food produced worldwide is never consumed. Some of that is food loss and waste that can be chalked up to problems and glitches in the supply chain, insufficient or failing infrastructure, etc. Food, as you know, is fragile cargo, leaving little margin for error or delay in transit.

It's a tech issue, it's a trade issue, it's an infrastructure issue. It's also an energy and an environmental issue encompassing everything from natural resource management to power generation to climate change and sustainability practices. At the Chamber we have energy and environmental experts who are seeking to balance these



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challenges, and it's increasingly difficult. How do we do all of the things we want to accomplish as a nation and be responsible at the same time.

It's also an immigration issue. It's no secret that we have worker shortages in this country that that affects our farms and our food supply. And our nation needs a rational immigration policy that's aligned with the needs of our market at the same time that it protects our borders.

So these are just a few of the numerous public policy issues that impact hunger. And one quick aside before I leave the work of the Chamber and the public policy roles to say—For those of you doing that great work in this room, I hope you'll Google the Center for Corporate Citizenship, because our foundation runs a really great national recognition of programs that are attacking issues like this at a local level, a national level and a global level so with huge companies that win these awards and little tiny companies that win these awards. And it's important recognition for you and the work that you're doing and the way that you attract donors. But it's also really important that others see these best practices and are drawn to them. The awards happen every year. They attract more than a thousand people. So if you haven't thought about it for your organization, I hope that you might after this conversation.

When I think about how we tackle this challenge, it's impossible to separate the things that business can do to lead solutions with the policies that we know have to be in place for businesses to do that. The bottom line is that business alone can't solve hunger, and government can decide to be a big help or a hindrance.

The third perspective is philanthropic with the nonprofit work that a lot of people in this room do. The reality is it takes years to invest in innovations and solutions and bring them to the market so that we could affect change on a really big scale. And the legislative process is also lengthy. So the philanthropic groups and the nonprofit groups that fill in the gaps live, in the moment are crucial. We know that while businesses are trying to innovate and government is trying to help, that there are people right here in Des Moines and certainly where I live in Washington, DC, who are going to go to bed hungry tonight, that can't wait for a company or a government to find the solution—because they're hungry now. And we know that that falls to the work of the great nonprofits to help and to fill in that gap.

I do a lot of work with a local group in DC called "So Others Might Eat," and I've always loved the organization. It was started by a Catholic priest many years ago, and it's really a wonderful group, because it will give you soup if what you need is soup. It'll give you a shower if what you need is a shower. But if what you really need is an addiction program, they'll help you find that. And if you get through that and what you really want is job training, SOME will help you do that. And if you get through that whole chain and then you have a job and you want to be certified and then you want to figure out a place to live and you need to learn how to pay bills, they will work you through that whole chain. And it's been wonderful to see the graduates of the SOME Program come back and work at SOME and help others up that ladder.



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But there are still... I called Father John yesterday and asked him for this number. There are still 863 homeless children today in Washington, DC, and that should make all of us really angry and really appalled, that we live in a society that can be so wealthy on one hand and leaves children behind. Being on SOME's board, I have felt this overwhelming responsibility to try to help them, to raise money for them, to raise awareness for them. But really the impact always comes when I find a volunteer opportunity. That's not how they want me to spend my time—right? They'd rather I were raising funds or raising awareness than working in the kitchen, but Elise and Greg and I just went a couple of weeks ago. And to look eye to eye with people who are having an existential crisis, to go serve food in the women and children's dining room because there are grandmas' that are going to bring their five kids in for a hot meal that day, really brings all of this home in a way that no amount of speechifying or fundraising can do.

And I think when you are face to face with real human beings, it's where you get the kind of courage and the energy to keep going and to keep fighting. Years ago I listened to a man talk about how there was a homeless person outside of his office. He saw him every day. Every day he'd walk outside, and this man would be standing there. And he really did a good job of never making eye contact, and he just figured out this guy must be crazy—I'm gonna work really hard at not looking at him. He said it was almost like a switch flipped one day and he couldn't not see him anymore, and so he introduced himself. And then he realized that this man was there every single day, and he not only wanted to greet him by name and treat him as a human being, but he started buying Dunkin' Donuts gift cards and giving them to the man on a pretty regular basis.

And then when he started doing that, he started noticing more and more homeless people and giving them Dunkin' Donuts gift cards until finally his wife pulled him aside and said, "Can we talk about this Dunkin' Donut line item on our budget for a minute?" and suggested that maybe there was a better way that they could help. And so I met him because they came to SOME and built a massive center to really help the job training and housing needs of some of the most insecure people in our city. But I've never forgotten his lesson, that it was really about making eye contact and that you have to see the human more than you see a problem. And when you see the human instead of it as a problem, that's what drives you to a solution.

So I'm a really lucky person. It's a really lucky thing to be allowed to serve on public company boards. And it's a really lucky thing to be the president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. And having those perspectives has taught me a great deal. But what really has made it a blessing is the work through So Others Might Eat, of looking people in the eye at their worst moments, of being willing to shake someone's hand, look them in the eye, know their name, and look at the human that's in there. Because what we know is that no single sector can solve this problem by itself.

American ingenuity and entrepreneurship are the keys to meaningful solutions, and we need government right there to help create the conditions for those innovations to flourish. We know we have to balance our pursuit of long-term change for a



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modern and sustainable global food system with the urgent and immediate needs prevalent in communities around the globe. And then, even as we seek to solve this on the most global scale possible, as quickly as possible, we can never separate the hunger from the person—and that’s what we have to carry into the boardrooms, into the statehouses, into congress, and into forums like this one. Yes, this is about private sector leadership. Yes, this is about government leadership. And, yes, this is about philanthropy. But we can never forget that, when it comes to hunger, it’s really about the people.

Thank you very much.

Ambassador Quinn

Wow. That was sensational. Oh, my gosh. Thank you. Another round of applause. So I was going to give you that.

Suzanne Clark

Oh, I'm so happy. I'll take it.

Ambassador Quinn

Yes. Even before you took it, I was going to give it to you because I was so touched by your words.

So this is my last Hunger Summit event. We had an incredible morning, the best morning I think all combined—Bishop, having you, having David Beckmann and Tony Hall, having the Feeding America CEO and all the food bank directors who are here.

So I meet with the food bank advocates, and I can say, “What can I do for you? What do you want?” The said, “If we could just get business leaders to come and be with us and be focused on this, that would be incredible.” So you have now brought their most ardent wish to reality, because the room’s filled with business leaders as a result of your being here. And your inspiring message about the role that business has in addressing this is just the best ever. So thank you for making my last event so terrific. Thank you for being here with us. Thank you on behalf of John and Janis Ruan for the relationship that we’ve had with you and with the Chamber. Can we have one more round of applause?

And, Governor, Representative Axne, Lieutenant Governor and state officials and mayor—thank you all. Thank you all for being here today. The room is full, and this is a culmination of what we started in 2007, such a 13-year run. And my wish is that the Hunger Summit will continue and will even grow and be an even bigger and more meaningful event every year. Thank you all for being here with us.



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Now, don't leave. Madeline is going to come. Where are you? Get up here and tell everybody about the afternoon. It'll just take a couple minutes.

Madeline Goebel

Wonderful. We have two more rounds of breakout sessions that will happen right here on the third floor. And then at 3:25 we'll convene downstairs back in that ballroom for our closing session. So have a great afternoon, and thank you for joining us.