

FOREST FARRIS: I think I need to speak up for the tribes in Montana. We have seven reservations that we serve from our regional warehouse. And we also deliver into the Arapaho and the Shoshone in Wyoming and northern Utah. And their needs are very unique at each reservation, their geography, their population base, a per-participant funding formula could very well be detrimental to their programs.

Their infrastructure needs, which we haven't had those funds for the last couple of years, their facilities are getting older and older, and some are trying to work with the frozen food and fresh produce program, but the freezers and coolers are being held together with duct tape. And they just don't have the funds to replace them. The geography and the tailgating and the home delivery are all issues that would have to be looked at to even continue the program, depending on the funding formula. They are also very actively receiving assistance through the commodity, Supplemental Food Program, as well as the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

And there are senior centers that are still serving meals, and that is through the Agency on Aging, but we still are holding fast with getting commodities through the school lunch type commodity program for those programs, as well. We are very concerned about how we would, where we would head with FDPIR funding program on a formula basis. And we definitively believe, as Red Gates and all the rest have stated, that each tribe balance area needs to be considered and negotiated with. And it's awfully hard to see how that would happen if we come up with a funding formula by participants.

That's what we have to say. We want to see all these programs reauthorized. We would love to see some of the requirements for the tribes, as far as income guidelines and the exhaustive certification processes and reauthorization processes -- for many tribal members they are onerous, and I think it's kept a lot of them away from participating in this program. And those people that are living within those geographic service areas need this program, and they also need nutrition education, and they need to know how to use the food. A lot of them are going to the minimal Food Stamp Programs because the food they get is microwave ready. They are ready-to-eat foods, and so many of the people are forgetting how to cook their own food and take care of their households by cooking that food. And this education is definitively needed in all the tribes.

DARLENE BARNES: Are there other comments? You have an opportunity to comment in writing. Anything else, verbal?