would be spent on food stamps. It’s one of the most valuable economic impact generators, almost $2 of economic impact for each dollar invested, according to a study from Ecotrust.

Let’s accept the challenge to try to help improve the process. There are some additional steps that can be taken locally—don’t build or remodel schools that don’t have kitchens. It’s simple, but it’s more cost effective to do it when you’re constructing or remodeling than to have to come back later.

Let’s hold Members of Congress accountable. Last month, we once again on the floor of the House reaffirmed the fact that pizza dough with a little bit of tomato sauce is a vegetable. Maybe people in the course of this next year, when politicians are going to be out campaigning, may be able to pin them down on whether or not they believe pizza is a vegetable and whether they will act to override that outrage. It’s also important to expand the USDA pilot project that’s going to be starting next month in Florida and Michigan. Let’s see if we can give other States the opportunity for cash instead of commodities, to be able to purchase these local products. This will give opportunities for our school districts to strengthen the local partnerships; to be able to give kids healthy food; to be able to model behaviors that are important; and, most important, for the Federal Government to realign its interests away from large agribusiness interests away from large agribusiness and in favor of the health of our children.

Now, in the midst of the rubble of the so-called supercommittee, there was some good that came out of it. One good element was that there was not a secret sort of farm bill that was embedded that would have denied us the opportunity this year to reform farm legislation, because one of the simplest things we can do is to move payments from a storage function, put it in the hands of local schools, and local farmers to be able to improve the health of our children and our local economy.

CHRISTMAS AND THE EMPTY CHAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Poe) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is just around the corner. All throughout America, families will gather to celebrate the traditions and festivities, and be together and celebrate faith. But there are some American families that won’t have their entire family with them this year. There will be an empty chair at their table. That’s because there’s an empty chair at the Christmas table where that soldier, that warrior, that sailor, that airman is not there because they’re representing the United States in lands far away.

And that’s just the way it is.

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Polis) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Computer Science Education Week, which started this past Sunday, December 4, 2011, and runs through Saturday, December 10. This week-long celebration of the teaching and learning of computer science is a call to share information and host activities that will elevate computer science education for students at all levels.

In my district in Colorado, the computer science education initiative, Tech Girls Rock in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the Computer Science Teachers Association is launching a new national initiative, Tech Girls Rock, in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. On Thursday, 200 third-graders will be hand-delivering Christmas cards to our troops overseas.

I have had the opportunity to have these cards made by the kids in southeast Texas now for 5 years. I say I’ve had the opportunity. I don’t do the work. My staff does the work, along with the chamber of commerce and all the volunteers. Everybody volunteers.

I’ve been able to model behaviors that are important; and, most important, for the Federal Government to realign its interests away from large agribusiness and in favor of the health of our children.

And that’s just the way it is.