

April 20, 2022

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris
Acting Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Acting Ranking Member Harris:

Each year our nation's international food aid programs, including P.L. 480 Title II Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education within the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, help reach millions of vulnerable people around the world. These programs have enjoyed significant bipartisan support for more than 65 years. We, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request Congress continue to fully support these programs and that the fiscal year 2023 agriculture appropriations funding for these critical accounts be increased to at least \$2.26 billion.

Global food assistance is required as drought, continuing conflict, and other crises persist around the world. Chronic and acute hunger have continued to rise and the U.N. World Food Programme warns that the number of people facing crisis levels of food insecurity has risen to 276 million as a result of COVID-19, ongoing conflict (including between Russia and Ukraine) and climate-related extreme events. USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network estimated that approximately 105 million people were in need of humanitarian food assistance in 2022. With hunger on the rise, now is the time for America to continue its leadership role in the world by showing full support for its international food security programs.

Food assistance programs not only benefit the recipients, but also U.S. economic and national security interests. Food aid, in all its forms, is made available through these programs usually bearing the U.S. flag and/or marked "from the American people." By furthering stability in fragile countries and sparking hope in countless people who are struggling to survive, U.S. strategic interests are protected and expanded. Ultimately, these kinds of foreign assistance programs help create a firm foundation for vulnerable communities to grow and prosper, which is why many former food aid recipient countries are now among the most important U.S. trading partners.

The use of American grown commodities as food aid has been a cornerstone of U.S. foreign assistance programs for decades and U.S. food aid has continually evolved and adapted to meet changing needs. Using a combination of U.S. commodities, cash, vouchers, and locally purchased food, the U.S. has worked to expedite hunger relief, increase resilience and save countless lives. Through a joint public-private partnership, American farmers, fishing families, mariners, port workers, private voluntary organizations (PVOs), and the U.S. government have developed the strongest frontline response to urgent global food insecurity. Food aid is a tangible source of

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hope to those in need, and American stakeholders take great pride in their support for the world's most vulnerable people through these programs.

While our organizations at times have policy differences, we stand united in our belief that U.S. food aid programs are among the world's most critical foreign assistance programs, save countless lives, bolster our nation's and global security, and help millions in need around the world. We ask that you continue the lifesaving and life improving work of food aid by increasing the agriculture appropriations funding in fiscal year 2023 to at least \$2.26 billion to carry out the necessary and vital work accomplished in the P.L. 480 Title II Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole programs.

Thank you,

Action Against Hunger
1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions
ADM
ADRA International
AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
Alliance to End Hunger
American Association of Port Authorities
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
American President Lines, LLC
American Pulse Association
American Soybean Association
BKA Logistics
Bold Ocean LLC
Bread for the World
Breedlove Foods, Inc.
Bunge
Cantera Partners
CARE USA
Catholic Relief Services
Didion Milling Inc
DSM North America
Edesia
Euro-America Shipping & Trade, Inc.

Mercy Corps
Michigan Corn Growers Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cooperative Business Association
CLUSA International
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Shipping of America, LLC.
National Sorghum Producers
Navy League of the United States
North America Stevedoring Company
North American Millers' Association
North Dakota Farmers Union
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
NuDay
Oldendorff America, Ltd
Opportunity International
Outreach Inc.
Port Houston
Port of Beaumont
Port of Grays Harbor
Port of Kalama
Port of Lake Charles
Port of New Orleans
Port of Tacoma

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Fettig & Donalty, Inc.
Food for the Hungry
Global Food & Nutrition Inc.
Global Volunteers
Grain Millers-Agricor
GrainPro Incorporated
Hall Hunger Initiative
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
Heartland Goodwill Enterprises
Helen Keller Intl
Helping Hand For Relief & Development
Humanity & Inclusion
ILWU Local 4 Vancouver Wa
Ilwu Local 98
ILWU Oregon Area District Council
ILWU Washington Area District Council
InterAction
International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 23
International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Islamic Relief USA
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Kendall Packaging Corporation
L&M Corrugated Container Corp
Liberty Maritime Corporation
LifeLine Foods, LLC
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Marine Firemen's Union
Maritime Institute (MIRAID)
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Port of Vancouver USA
Potomac Maritime, LLC
Potomac Shipping International, LLC
Puget Sound Port Council
REPCO
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Save the Children
Schuyler Line Navigation Company LLC
Seafarers International Union
Sealift Inc.
Semo Milling, LLC
Standard Bag
The Port of Virginia
Transportation Institute
TVS
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Pea & Lentil Trade Association
United Sugars
US Ocean LLC
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Maritime
USA Rice
Venture37
Washington Public Ports Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
World Food Program USA
World Renew
World Vision