

March 20, 2023

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Harris, Chair Heinrich, Ranking Member Bishop, and Ranking Member Hoeven:

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 2024 agriculture appropriations funding for these critical accounts be increased to **at least \$2.3 billion**.

Global food assistance is required as drought, continuing conflict, inflationary costs, 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 349 million (up from 287 million in 2021) as a result of COVID-19, ongoing conflict (including the war in Ukraine) and climate-related extreme events. USAID noted this fall that the number of those facing acute food insecurity has soared from 135 million to 345 million since 2019. With hunger on the rise, now is the time for America to continue its global leadership role by showing full support for U.S. 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 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 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 2024 to **at least \$2.3 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,

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 Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
American President Lines, LLC
American Pulse Association
American Soybean Association
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.
Fettig & Donalty, Inc.
Food for the Hungry
Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers
Global Food & Nutrition Inc.
Grain Millers
GrainPro Incorporated
Hapag Lloyd USA LLC
Heartland Goodwill Enterprises
Helen Keller Intl
Humanity & Inclusion

ILWU Local 98
ILWU Washington Area District Council
Inlandboatmen's Union
InterAction
International Longshore and Warehouse Union,
Local 23
International Organization of Masters, Mates &
Pilots
Islamic Relief USA
James J. Flanagan Shipping
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Liberty Maritime Corporation
LifeLine Foods
Maersk Line, Limited
Mana Nutrition
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Marine Firemen's Union
Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial
Development
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Shipping of America, LLC
National Sorghum Producers
Navy League of the United States
North America Stevedoring Co
North American Millers' Association
Northeast Chartering Group, LLC
Port of Grays Harbor
Port of Kalama

Port of Lake Charles
Port of New Orleans
Port of Vancouver USA
Potomac Maritime, LLC
Potomac Shipping International , LLC
QSL America
REPCO
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Save the Children
Schuyler Line Navigation Company
Seafarers International Union
Sealift Inc.
SEMO Milling llc

The Port of Virginia
Transportation Institute
TVS, Inc.
U.S. Pea and Lentil Trade Association
US Ocean LLC
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice
Venture37
Washington Public Ports Association
Wisconsin & Southern Railroad
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
World Food Program USA
World Vision