

July 9, 2024

U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

We write to urge you to vote **NO** to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025 **with its inclusion of a drastic cut to the U.S. international food aid program, P.L. 480 Title II Food for Peace.**

Under the current text, our nation's flagship international food aid program Food for Peace would be funded at only \$1 billion, an enormous \$619 million reduction from FY24 levels, already a large cut from FY23, and dramatically below the authorized level of \$2.5 billion. Catastrophically, this further cut comes at a time of unprecedented global hunger with the UN World Food Programme stating that as many as 783 million people are facing chronic hunger, and more than 309 million are experiencing acute levels of food insecurity, 42 million of which are on the brink of starvation or worse. Now is not the time to slow the provision of much-needed aid.

Through a joint public-private partnership, American farmers, millers, mariners, port workers, private voluntary organizations (PVOs), and the U.S. government have developed the strongest frontline response to urgent global food insecurity. Food for Peace not only benefits its recipients, but also U.S. economic and national security interests. Food aid, in all its forms, is made available through this program usually bearing the U.S. flag and/or marked "from the American people." By furthering stability in fragile nations and sparking hope in countless people who are struggling to survive, U.S. strategic interests are protected and expanded. Ultimately, this kind of foreign assistance program helps 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.

Our organizations stand united in our belief that U.S. international food aid programs are among the world's most critical foreign assistance programs, saving countless lives while also bolstering our nation's global security. **We urge you to reject** the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025, with its current reduction to Food for Peace, America's most transparent foreign aid program that every year delivers tangible returns to American stakeholders.

Thank you,

ACF-SPAIN
AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
Alliance for Peacebuilding
Alliance to End Hunger
American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
APL
Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
Cantera Partners
Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)
Didion Milling, Inc.

Dsm-firmenich na
Edesia Nutrition
Euro-America Shipping
Fettig & Donalty, Inc.
Food for the Hungry
Gamaliel Network
Gamaliel of California
Global Communities
Global Food & Nutrition
Grain Millers, Inc.
GrainPro Incorporated
Heartland Goodwill Enterprises
Hudson Shipping and Trading LLC
Idaho Grain Producers Association

ILWU Washington Area District Council
Improving Economies for Stronger Communities
(IESC)
Inlandboatmen's Union
International Organization of Masters, Mates &
Pilots
Islamic Relief USA
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kendall Packaging Corporation
Liberty Maritime Corporation
LifeLine Foods
Lone Star Integrated Distribution
Malnutrition Advocacy Fund
Mana Nutrition
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Marine Firemen's Union
Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial
Development
Meds & Food for Kids
Michigan Bean Commission
Moran Towing Corporation
Muller Shipping Corporation
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Shipping of America
North America Stevedoring Co
North American Millers' Association
North Central Bean Dealers Association
Northeast Chartering Group, LLC
Oxfam America
Patriot Maritime
Pearl International
Physicians for Peace
Port Arthur Area Shrimpers' Association
Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center

Potomac Maritime LLC
ProAmpac
QSL America Inc
Reliance Bulk Carriers LLC
REPCO
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Save the Children
Schuyler Line Navigation
Seafarers International Union
Sealift Inc
SEMO Milling LLC
Southern Gulf Packaging & Logistics
Stella Maris - Diocese of Beaumont
Stella Maris Oakland
Tiger Soy LLC
Transportation Institute
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Transylvania Vocational Services
Trickle Up
TVS, Inc.
U.S. Pea and Lentil Trade Association
UNISHIPPING SAS
US Dry Bean Council
US Ocean, LLC
US Wheat Associates
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
Venture 37
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Winrock International
World Food Program USA
World Vision