

March 2, 2026

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

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

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

Each year our nation's international food aid programs, including Food for Peace Title II, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education, help reach millions of vulnerable people around the world, while also putting America First. These Buy American programs have enjoyed significant bipartisan support for over 70 years. With the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ramping up its Food for Peace activities, we recommend returning to FY24/FY25 funding levels. As such, we, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request Congress continue to fully support these programs and **include \$1,619,107,000 for Food for Peace and \$240,000,000 for McGovern-Dole in the fiscal year 2027 agriculture appropriations bill.**

The use of American grown commodities as food aid has been a cornerstone of Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole for decades. Through a joint public-private partnership, American farmers, 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. The Food for Peace program purchases, on average, more than a million tons of American-grown commodities from dozens of states each year, utilizes this country's transportation and shipping industries, and supports the American economy while simultaneously responding to hunger emergencies around the world. Throughout their history, food assistance programs have supported and earned American allies and paved the way for greater commercial and trade opportunities across the world.

Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole not only benefit their recipients, but also U.S. economic and national security interests. Food aid is made available through these programs in bags bearing the U.S. flag and/or marked "from the American people." U.S. contributions to global food security support U.S. strength abroad, especially when confronting programs like China's Road and Belt Initiative (and its more than \$1 trillion investment) and those of other global competitors eager to establish spheres of influence. And, ultimately, these kinds of humanitarian 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.

We believe that these U.S. international food aid programs are among the world's most critical humanitarian assistance programs, save countless lives, bolster our nation's global security, and help millions in need around the world. We ask that you continue to allow these Buy American, America First programs to reinforce our nation's standing as a global leader in food security by **funding Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole at their FY24/FY25 levels of \$1,619,107,000 and \$240,000,000, respectively.** America's farmers, millers, mariners, and on the ground implementers are ready to continue carrying out the necessary and vital work accomplished in the Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole programs.

Thank you,

ACDI/VOCA
AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department
AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
Alliance to End Hunger
American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
American Soybean Association
APL
Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America
Apostleship of the Sea/Stella Maris - Diocese of Beaumont
Association of Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers
BKA Logistics
Breedlove Foods, Inc.
California Association of Wheat Growers
Chicago Port Logistics
Clarksons EAST LLC
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Didion Milling, Inc.
DRY BULK AMERICA LLC
dsm-firmenich na
Edesia Nutrition
Fettig & Donalty, Inc.
Global Communities
Global Food & Nutrition
Grain Craft LLC
Grain Millers - Agricolor
Heartland Goodwill Enterprises
HelpAge USA

Hopkinsville Milling Company
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Idaho Wheat Commission
ILWU Washington Area District Council
Improving Economies for Stronger Communities
Inland Cape Fine Grind LLC
Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific
International Dairy Foods Association
International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Farmers Union
Kansas Sorghum Producers
Kendall Packaging Corporation
Liberty Maritime Corporation
Lone Star Integrated Distribution
Malnutrition Advocacy Fund
Mana Nutrition
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Marine Firemen's Union
Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID)
Mercy Corps
Midwest Dry Bean Coalition
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers
Muller Shipping Corporation
National Association of Waterfront Employers
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA CLUSA)
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Milk Producers Federation
National Shipping of America, LLC.
National Sorghum Producers
Navy League of the United States
Nebraska Dry Bean Commission
Nebraska Dry Pea and Lentil Commission
Nebraska Wheat Board
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
North American Millers' Association
North Dakota Farmers Union
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Wheat Commission
Northeast Chartering Group
Oklahoma Sorghum Growers
Oklahoma Wheat Commission
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Patriot Maritime
Port Arthur International Seamen's Center, Inc
Port of Kalama
Port of Lake Charles
Port of New Orleans
Port of Vancouver USA
Potomac Maritime, LLC
Reliance Bulk Carriers
REPCO
Rocky Mountain Bean Dealers Association
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Save the Children
School-to-School International
Schuyler Line Navigation Company
Seafarers International Union
Sealift INC.
SeaTac Packaging
SEMO Milling LLC
South Dakota Wheat Growers Association
Southern Gulf Packaging & Logistics
Texas Grain Sorghum Association
Texas Wheat Producers Association
Transportation Institute
Transylvania Vocational Services, inc.
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Wheat Associates
UNISHIPPING SAS
US Dry Bean Council

US Ocean
USA Pulses
USA Pulses Trade Association
USA Rice
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
WaterAid America
Winrock International
Wisconsin & Southern Railroad
World Food Program USA
World Vision
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association