

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  
Gina Rivera  
Global Food & Nutrition Inc.  
Grain Millers  
GrainPro Incorporated  
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