

April 2, 2024

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 70 years. We, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request Congress continue to fully support these programs and that the fiscal year 2025 agriculture appropriations funding for these critical accounts be increased to **at least \$2.4 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 333 million as a result of lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing conflict (including the war in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza) and climate-related extreme events. According to the Mid-Year Update of the Global Report on Food Crises, there are currently at least 238 million acutely food insecure people around the world, which is a 10% increase from the 2022 figure. 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 assistance programs.

International food aid 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, 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

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 2025 to **at least \$2.4 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,

ACDI/VOCA
ADRA International
Alliance to End Hunger
American Association of Port Authorities
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers Service
American Soybean Association
APL
Apostleship of the Sea - USA
Better World Campaign
BKA Logistics LLC
Blue Water Shipping Co.
Blumont
Breedlove Foods, Inc.
Bunge
Cantera Partners
CARE
Cargill
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Sorghum Growers
Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA)
Didion Milling Inc
dsm-firmenich na
Edesia Nutrition
Euro-America Shipping
Fettig & Donalby, Inc.
Food for the Hungry
Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers
Global Communities
Global Food & Nutrition Inc.
Grain Millers, Inc.
GrainPro Incorporated
Heartland Goodwill Enterprises
Helen Keller Intl
Idaho Grain Producers Association

Idaho Wheat Commission
Illinois Soybean Association
ILWU Washington Area District Council
Improving Economies for Stronger Communities (IESC)
Inlandboatmen's Union
InterAction
International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Islamic Relief USA
James J Flanagan Shipping
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Kendall Packaging
Land O'Lakes Venture37
Liberty Maritime Corporation
LifeLine Foods
Lone Star Integrated Distribution
Mana Nutrition
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Marine Firemen's Union
Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
Meds & Food for Kids
Midwest Dry Bean Coalition
Moran Towing Corp
Muller Shipping Corporation
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 Pecan Federation
National Shipping of America
National Sorghum Producers
Natural Enrichment Industries, LLC

Navy League of the United States
Nebraska Dry Pea & Lentil Commission
Nebraska Wheat Board
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
North American Millers' Association
Northarvest Bean Growers Association
Northeast Chartering Group, LLC
Oklahoma Wheat Commission
Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association
Oldendorff America Ltd
One Acre Fund
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Patriot Maritime
Port Arthur International Seafarers Center
Port of Kalama
Port of New Orleans
Port of Tacoma
Port of Vancouver USA
Potomac Maritime LLC
ProAmpac
Reliance Bulk Carriers LLC
REPCO
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Schuyler Line Navigation Company
Seafarers International Union
Sealift Inc
SEMO Milling LLC
South Dakota Wheat Growers Association

Southern Gulf Packaging & Logistics
Stella Maris - Diocese of Beaumont
Texas Wheat Producers Association
The Port of Virginia
Tiger Soy LLC
Transportation Institute
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Transylvania Vocational Services
Trickle Up
TVS, Inc.
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Peanut Federation
UNISHIPPING SAS
US Ocean LLC
US Pea & Lentil Trade Association
US Wheat Associates
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
WaterAid
Waterman Logistics
Winrock International
World Food Program USA
World Vision