

April 8, 2019

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

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley:

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 each year. These programs have enjoyed significant bipartisan support for more than 60 years. We, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request that Congress continues to fully support these programs by robustly funding these accounts in Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations.

Drought, continuing conflict, and other crises persist around the world, requiring ongoing global food assistance. According to the UN World Food Programme, 821 million people, or one in nine, are currently suffering from chronic hunger, while over 206 million children worldwide contend with stunting or wasting due to malnutrition. Going into 2019, USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network projects an uptick in food insecurity, with over 83 million people in need of emergency food assistance. With hunger on the rise, now is the time for America to continue its leadership role in the world by showing full support for its international food security programs.

Food aid, in all its forms, is made available through these programs bearing the U.S. flag and/or marked "from the American people." These programs not only benefit recipients, but also

April 8, 2019

Page 2

U.S. strategic interests by furthering stability in fragile countries and sparking hope in countless people who are struggling to survive. In a letter to House and Senate leadership on February 27, 2017, over 120 generals and admirals showed their support for foreign assistance, like that provided through international food programs, because they understand that it builds goodwill, decreases vulnerability, and provides lifesaving assistance to people and families in crises. 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

American commodities as food aid has been a cornerstone of U.S. foreign assistance programs and U.S. food aid has continually evolved and adapted over the decades to meet changing needs through a combination of U.S. commodities, cash, vouchers, and locally purchased food in order to expedite hunger relief and save countless lives. Working 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 in any form 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 do agree that U.S. food aid programs are among the world's most critical foreign assistance programs, save countless lives, bolster our nation's and 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 providing robust appropriations

April 8, 2019

Page 3

in Fiscal Year 2020 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	International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Action Against Hunger	Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
ADRA International	Kendall Packaging Corporation
American Association of Port Authorities	Land O' Lakes International Development
American Farm Bureau Federation	Liberty Maritime Corporation
American Maritime Congress	LifeLine Foods, LLC
American Maritime Officers	Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
American Maritime Officers Service	Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
American President Lines, LLC	National Association of Wheat Growers
American Pulse Association	National Barley Growers Association
American Soybean Association	National Corn Growers Association
Bold Ocean LLC	National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Bread for the World	National Farmers Union
Breedlove Foods	National Milk Producers Federation
Bunge North America	National Sorghum Producers
CARE USA	National Sunflower Association
Catholic Relief Services	Navy League of the United States
Church World Service	North American Millers' Association
CNFA	North American Stevedores
Didion Milling	Notre Dame Initiative for Global Development
DSM North America, Human Nutrition & Health	Planet Aid
Edesia	Port Houston
Euro-America Shipping & Trade, Inc.	Port of Beaumont
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Port of Lake Charles
Federal Marine Terminals	Port of New Orleans
Feed the Children	Port of Virginia
FINCA International	Potomac Shipping International, LLC
Food for the Hungry	Prayon, Inc.
Global Citizen	Project Concern International (PCI)
Global Food & Nutrition Inc.	Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Great Lakes Maritime Academy	Save the Children
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC	Schuyler Line Navigation Company, LLC
Helen Keller International	Seafarers International Union
InterAction	Sealift Inc.
International Longshore and Warehouse Union	Semo Milling
International Longshoremen's Association	

April 8, 2019

Page 4

Shelter for Life International
TechnoServe
The Borgen Project
Transportation Institute
Transylvania Vocational Services, Inc.
U.S. Shipping Corp
United Sugars Corporation
US Canola Association
US Dry Bean Council
US Ocean LLC
US Rice Producers Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Association
USA Rice
Watco Companies, LLC
Winrock International
World Food Program USA
World Vision