

April 7, 2025

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 P.L. 480 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 70 years. We, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request Congress continue to fully support these programs and that the **fiscal year 2026 agriculture appropriations funding for Food for Peace be increased to \$1.75 billion and to increase McGovern-Dole to \$243,331,000, as they were appropriated in FY 2023.**

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. U.S. food aid has continually evolved and adapted to meet changing needs, and save countless lives. 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 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 with the world.

Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole not only benefit the recipients, but also U.S. economic and national security interests. Food aid is made available through these programs 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 bolster our nation's standing as a global leader in food security by increasing Food for Peace to at least \$1.75 billion and McGovern-Dole to at least \$243,331,000 in fiscal year 2026. America's farmers, millers, mariners, and on the ground implementers are ready to continue carrying 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

Alliance to End Hunger

American Association of Port Authorities

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Maritime Officers

American Maritime Officers Service

American Natural Processors, Inc

American Pulse Association

American Soybean Association

APL

Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

Association of Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers

Basic Education Coalition

BKA Logistics

Breedlove Foods

Bunge

Colorado Association of Wheat Growers

Didion Milling, Inc.

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Edesia Nutrition

Euro-America Shipping

Fettig & Donalty, Inc.

Grain Millers, Inc.

GrainPro Incorporated

Hapag Lloyd USA LLC

Heartland Goodwill Enterprises

Hudson Shipping and Trading LLC

Idaho Wheat Commission

ILWU Local 19 Port of Seattle

ILWU Washington Area District Council

International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

Kendall Packaging

Liberty Maritime Corporation

LifeLine Foods

Lone Star Integrated Distribution LLC

Malnutrition Advocacy Fund

Mana Nutrition

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

Marine Firemen's Union

Maritime Institute (MIRAID)

Midwest Dry Bean Coalition

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 Shipping of America, LLC.

National Sorghum Producers

Navy League of the United States

North American Millers' Association

North Dakota Farmers Union

Northarvest Bean Growers Association
Northeast Chartering Group, LLC
Oklahoma Wheat Commission
Oldendorff Carriers
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Patriot Maritime
Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center
Port of Kalama
Port of Lake Charles
Port of New Orleans
Port of Vancouver USA
Potomac Maritime LLC
Premier Logistics
REPCO
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Schuyler Line
Seafarers International Union of North America
Sealift Inc
SEMO Milling LLC
Southern Gulf Packaging & Logistics
Stella Maris - Diocese of Beaumont

Texas Wheat Producers Association
The Wright Group
Tiger Soy LLC
Transportation Institute
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
(TTD)
Transylvania Vocational Services, Inc.
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Pea and Lentil Trade Association
U.S. Wheat Associates
UNISHIPPING SAS
US Dry Bean Council
US Ocean LLC
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council
USA Rice
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
WaterAid America
Winrock International
Wisconsin & Southern Railroad
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
World Food Program USA