

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2023

The Honorable Glenn “G.T.” Thompson
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee
Rayburn House Office Building, 2466
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee
Cannon House Office Building, 468
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott,

Thank you for your strong support for international food assistance programs authorized in Title III of the Farm Bill, including Food for Peace Title II and McGovern-Dole Food for Education. Food for Peace emergency programs save lives around the world, mainly by providing U.S. commodities to combat severe hunger and malnutrition in times of humanitarian crisis. At the same time, the Farm Bill authorizes critical nonemergency food assistance programs that address the underlying drivers of hunger in ways that in-kind food aid cannot, strengthening communities’ ability to feed themselves and ultimately decreasing dependency on U.S. foreign aid over the long-term. We respectfully encourage you to strengthen these Food for Peace resilience programs in the Farm Bill and avoid expensive and inefficient aid dependencies that disadvantage local communities and squander U.S. taxpayer investments.


By helping create sustainable local food systems that reduce the number of hungry communities, nonemergency international food assistance programs are efficient and cost-effective mechanisms of foreign aid. Evidence shows that every \$1 invested in resilience-building programs saves \$3 in humanitarian aid. Furthermore, these programs serve as force multipliers by simultaneously advancing other U.S. foreign policy goals. For example, McGovern-Dole has reached children in 48 countries with school meal programs that not only promote children’s overall health and nutrition, but also boost literacy and school enrollment, especially for girls. The program provides U.S. in-kind food for school meals, complemented with highly nutritious, locally-produced vegetables, fruits, and eggs that could not be shipped from the United States.

Following massive shocks to the international system—including the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, worsening droughts and floods, rising violence across the globe, and staggering increases to food and fertilizer prices—these capacity-building investments are needed now more than ever. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, roughly 783 million people around the world do not have enough to eat, with more than 345 million people facing severe food insecurity. Food insecurity threatens long-term U.S. interests in poverty alleviation, good

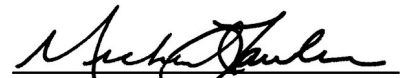
governance, and economic development around the world. And without stronger nonemergency programs to help communities be self-sufficient, the number of hungry people will continue to grow—likely contributing to an unprecedented increase in need for U.S. foreign assistance that will extend far beyond food aid. At this inflection point for global food insecurity, whether the U.S. strengthens its leadership or abdicates it will impact our international influence and soft power for generations to come.

As the world confronts record hunger and malnutrition, the 2023 Farm Bill is an opportunity for the U.S. to continue to lead the fight to end hunger. We urge you to strengthen the nonemergency programs in Title III that support self-reliance and sustainably reduce food insecurity around the globe—in short, that feed more people for less. We hope this Congress can continue the legacy of past Farm Bill negotiations to build a brighter, healthier, and more food secure world.


Sincerely,




Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress




Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress




Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress




María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



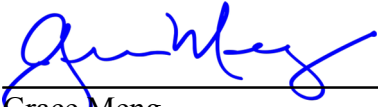
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



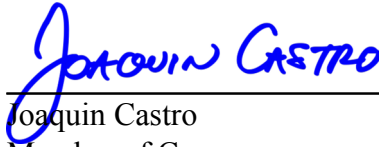
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André Carson
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Grace Meng
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Joaquin Castro
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Dina Titus
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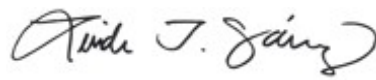
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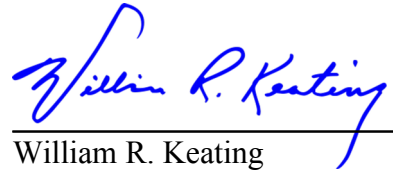
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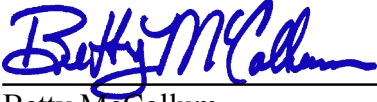
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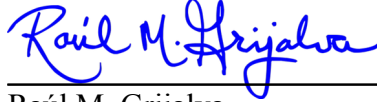
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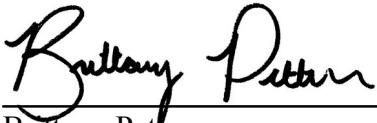
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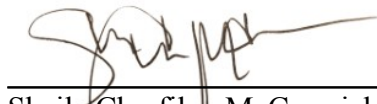
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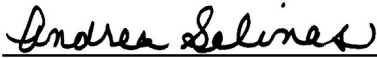
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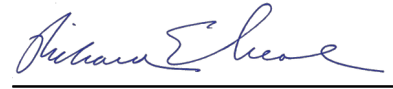
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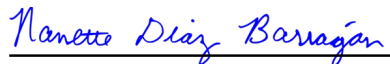
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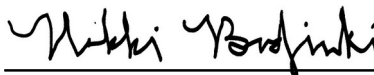
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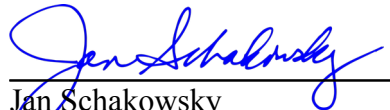
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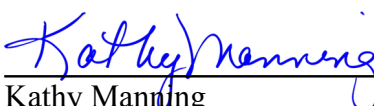
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Kathy Manning
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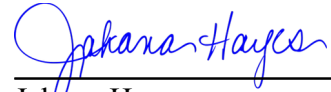
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