

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We are writing to express deep concern over the recent decision to stop \$500 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funding for food banks and emergency food providers, allocated through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). This will undoubtedly result in a significant shortfall in food availability for millions of Americans facing food insecurity at a time when inflation and economic uncertainty continue to strain household budgets.

For many families, emergency food assistance programs provide a critical safety net. With more than 47 million Americans experiencing food insecurity, including 1 in 5 children,<sup>1</sup> access to sufficient and nutritious food remains a top priority. In 2023 alone, food banks and pantries assisted approximately 50 million Americans, relying heavily on federally purchased commodities to supplement their resources.<sup>2</sup>

Beyond the direct impact on individuals and families, these potential funding cuts also raise concerns for U.S. farmers and food producers who contribute to the TEFAP supply chain. Disruptions in purchasing commitments could have adverse effects on the agricultural sector, exacerbating challenges posed by supply chain instability, tariffs, and economic pressures.

Given these concerns, we respectfully request clarification on the following points:

1. Is the funding originally announced on October 1, 2024<sup>3</sup> and further outlined in the December 2, 2024 memo to TEFAP State Agencies<sup>4</sup> permanently rescinded?
2. Have any approved purchases of food provided through TEFAP been canceled or paused by USDA? If so, please provide an accounting of these purchases and the States impacted by the cancellations and/or pauses.
3. Are there additional TEFAP purchases that USDA plans to pause or cancel in the coming months?
4. Has USDA identified alternative funding to offset any reductions in TEFAP allocations for fiscal year 2025?
5. How does USDA plan to ensure that emergency food providers can continue serving vulnerable populations despite any potential shortfalls in federal assistance?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/charitable-food-assistance-participation>

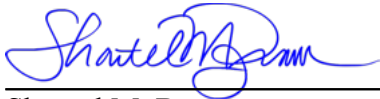
<sup>3</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20241004105644/https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2024/10/01/usda-invests-17-billion-support-farmers-deliver-nutrition>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/fy25-ccc-funding>

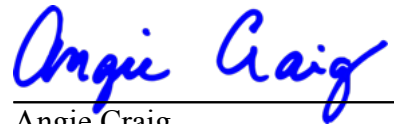
6. What steps is the agency taking to minimize disruptions to American farmers and producers who rely on these commodity purchases?

Given the urgency of this issue, we appreciate your prompt attention to these questions no later than April 18, 2025. Ensuring a stable and sufficient food supply for our communities should remain a priority, and we look forward to your response outlining USDA's plans to address these concerns.

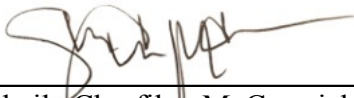
Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown  
Vice Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture




Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



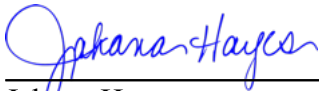
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Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



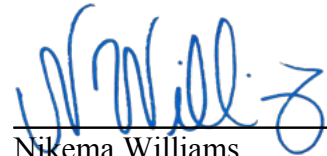
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



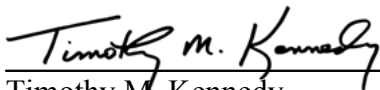
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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



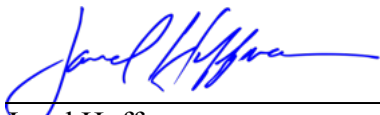
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Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



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Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

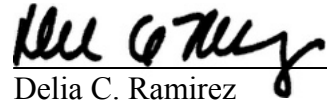


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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



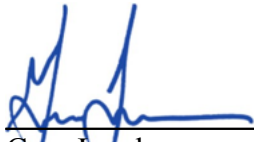
Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



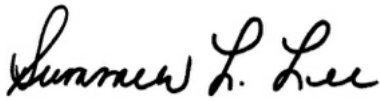
Josh Riley  
Member of Congress



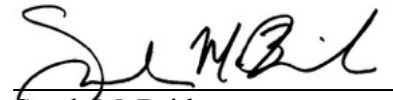
Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



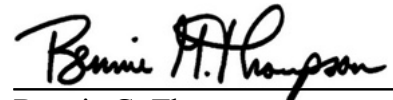
Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



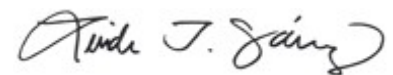
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



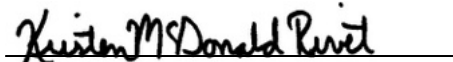
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress




Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress





Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress


  
Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress

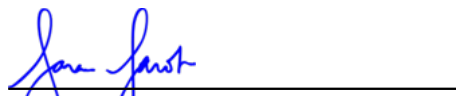
  
Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress


  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress


  
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress


  
Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress


  
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress


  
Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress

  
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Pocan  
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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

  
Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress

  
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



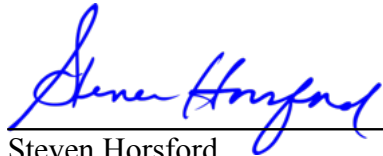
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



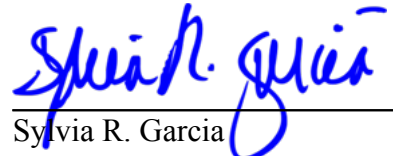
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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



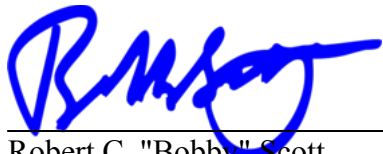
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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress  
Nevada's Fourth Congressional  
District



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



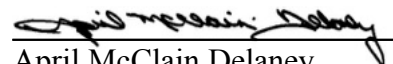
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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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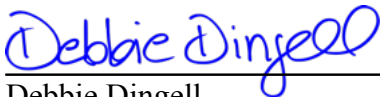
April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



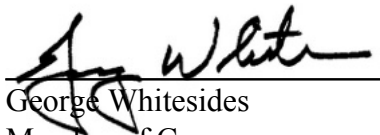
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



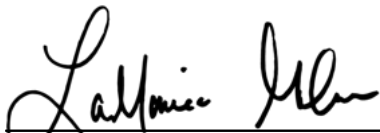
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



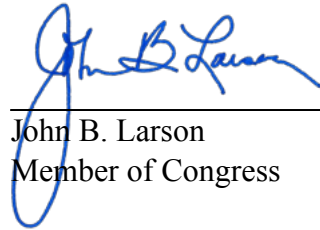
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress




George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



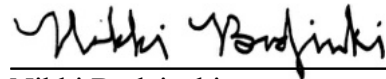
LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



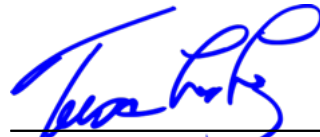
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



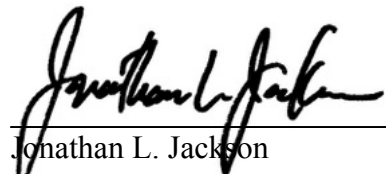
Mike Quigley  
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Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



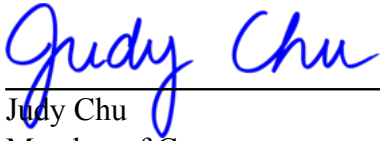
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Dave Min  
Member of Congress



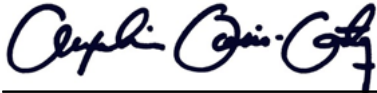
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



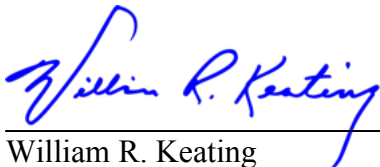
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



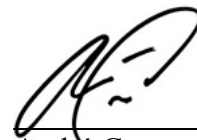
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



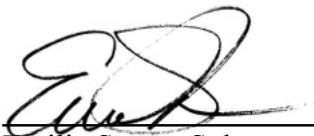
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



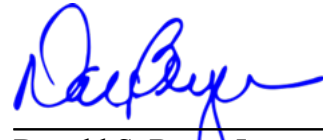
William R. Keating  
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André Carson  
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



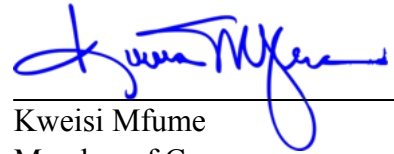
Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress





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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



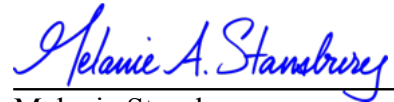
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Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



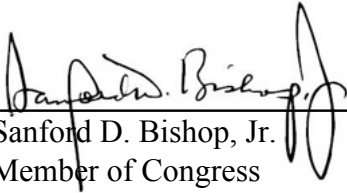
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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



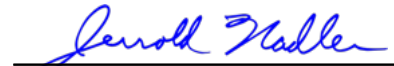
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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



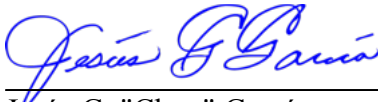
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George Latimer  
Member of Congress



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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress