

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We are writing to express our concern about the state of critical food assistance and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Food banks feed millions of Americans every year. With the passage of the 'One Big Beautiful Bill,' which imposes stricter work requirements for the SNAP program and shifts significant financial responsibility to states, many Americans will increasingly depend on food banks to make ends meet. This makes TEFAP all the more critical, as it plays a vital role in supporting food banks, pantries, and local nonprofits that serve millions of food-insecure Americans. This past October, USDA announced \$500 million in funding for TEFAP. This support was incredibly timely, given the significant rise in food insecurity over the last several years.

We were alarmed to hear the USDA canceled \$500 million in deliveries to food banks via the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation and Agriculture Marketing Service, which are responsible for funding TEFAP. The Commodity Credit Corporation and the Agriculture Marketing Service have historically served as mandatory funding mechanisms for federal food programs. We are deeply concerned about the impact this cancellation will have on the 40 million Americans who rely on the Feeding America network to fight hunger and the operations of community organizations and food banks that rely on this funding to serve their communities. We have heard from many concerned constituents, our local organizations, food banks, and farmers in our district are unsure how to proceed. This cancellation affects the livelihood of so many in our districts and is a matter of life or death for some.

Farms, food banks, and nonprofits across the country are already struggling to meet current needs. Though we acknowledge your expressed intention to purchase \$230 million in produce from American farmers earlier this month under Section 32 of the Agriculture Act of 1935, this amount falls short of covering even half of the cancellations. We demand the full reinstatement of funding and supplies for Feeding America and that your agency retroactively compensate for any appropriate funds.

To that end, we urge you to provide answers to the following questions within 30 days of receipt of this letter:

Funding Cuts and Provisions:

- How does the USDA plan to make up for *all of* the recent funding cuts to the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Agriculture Marketing Service to ensure the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) continues operating at its current rate?
- Under which provision or policy were these funding cuts implemented, and what was the rationale behind the decision?

Impact on Food Banks and Hunger Rates:

- How has the USDA assessed the potential impact of these funding cuts on food banks across the nation, particularly in terms of their ability to meet demand?
- Has the USDA conducted any studies or models to predict how these cuts will affect hunger rates, particularly among vulnerable populations?

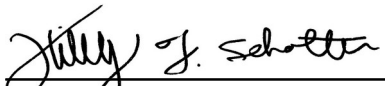
Plans for Mitigating the Gap:

- What steps is the USDA planning to take in order to offset the gap in food supplies caused by these funding cuts, especially for food banks that rely heavily on TEFAP support?
- Will the USDA seek alternative funding sources, partnerships, or initiatives to help mitigate the negative effects of these cuts on food access and security?
- Are there any strategies in place to ensure that food banks continue to operate effectively, even with reduced funding?

These funding cuts actively undermine the programs Congress has put into place to mitigate and eliminate hunger in America. Again, we urge you to immediately reinstate these canceled funds.


Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.


Sincerely,


Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress


JM Tokuda
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress

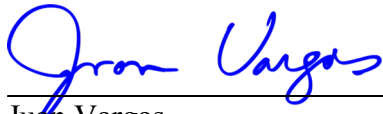

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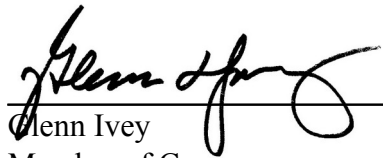
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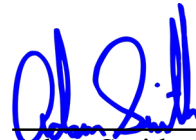
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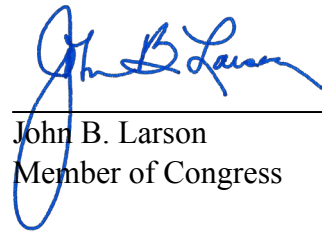
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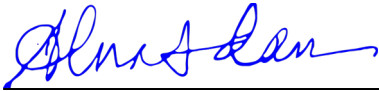
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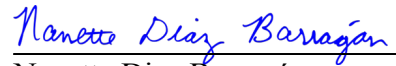
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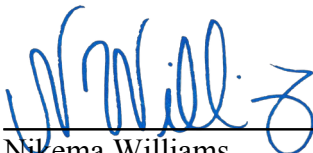
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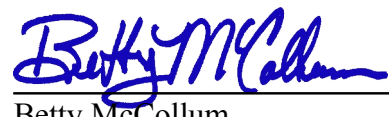
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