

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 13, 2012

Dr. Jim Yong Kim  
President  
The World Bank Group  
1818 H Street NW  
Washington, DC 20433

Dear President Kim:

Congratulations on being named the new president of the World Bank Group. This high honor puts you in a position to affect positive change for millions of world citizens living in the world's poorest countries as well as developing middle-income countries. We believe your commitment to adapt the World Bank Group to more effectively respond to a rapidly changing world and empower the poor by ensuring growth and sustainability will serve the World Bank well. We ask that you conduct an assessment of the conditions in the most poverty stricken countries that are home to small farmers to determine how best to improve agricultural infrastructure and development assistance that would allow farmers to increase nutritious food output.

As you are aware, the U.S. recently hosted the 2012 G-8 Summit with global food security at the top of the agenda. The Summit focused on small farmers, particularly in Africa, capitalizing on agricultural investment, innovation and skill building to create sustainable food security. Out of this Summit came a pledge to promote investments in sustainable agriculture to lift 50 million people out of poverty over the next decade. At the recently held food security symposium organized by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the World Economic Forum, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton outlined the next steps the world can take to advance food security and nutrition. These included governments and organizations partnering with strategically capable international corporations to advance agricultural growth, focusing on providing more nutritious foods particularly for children in their first 1000 days of life and working toward gender equality to give women more access to seeds, credits, markets and other necessities that would help support their small farms and increase world food output.

These are significant commitments that build on the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative that emerged from the 2009 G8 Summit held in L'Aquila, Italy. It is our hope that with over 925 million people still suffering from hunger, and hunger and malnutrition being the number one risk to health worldwide, that the World Bank Group will continue and strengthen its existing programs aimed at lifting the poorest countries out of poverty and overcoming food security challenges. We also welcome new ideas on how best to implement development policies and programs, in closer conjunction with leaders of developing countries, aimed at fighting poverty and world hunger.

We recognize and commend the long-standing vision of the World Bank Institute – to inspire change agents and equip them with relevant tools to help achieve development results. We further acknowledge the International Development Association and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as World Bank institutions that continue to help millions of people around the world. We are also cognizant of the official development assistance challenges the World Bank Group faces. As such, we encourage you to engage our many capable U.S. international corporations to help in the global fight against hunger. We support initiatives that would most efficiently utilize the resources made available to the World Bank to combat world poverty and to meet the steps outlined by Secretary Clinton that would put the world on a more solid footing to fight poverty, food insecurity and related diseases.

Again, congratulations on being named president of the World Bank Group. Your experience as an anthropologist and expert in public health, and your having worked directly with extremely poor countries, makes us confident in your ability to address the issue of poverty and its symptoms, namely hunger and disease, which are often found in these countries. We look forward to strong leadership that will help better the lives of millions of people around the world.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohen

Sam Lamm

Brad Eick

Earl Blumenfeld

Pete Stans

John Lewis

Karen Bass

Ami

Jim McGovern

Jul Rubin

Maureen Donohue

Bob Filner

David G. H. Smith

Wm. Lacy Clay

Alan Smith

Melanie Watson

Boyd L. Zorn

Barbara Lee

Lynne Woolsey

Lucy Flores

Jim Moran

Eleanor H. Norton

Howard L. Berman

Danmy K. Davis

Janet R. Parks

Cc: U.S. Department of State Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton

Lana Richardson

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