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11TH DISTRICT, OHIO

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY,  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS



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

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July 10, 2012

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson,

As the 2012 Farm bill process moves forward, we want to express our strong support for U.S. international food aid programs and urge reforms that will make these life-saving programs more effective and efficient, especially in times of tight federal budgets.

U.S. food aid has enjoyed decades of bipartisan support. The U.S. provides critical leadership on this issue not only because it is the right thing to do – it is in our national security and economic interest. We live in a world where hunger, poverty and instability are inextricably linked. As food and fuel prices remain high and volatile, it is critical to global stability that the U.S. lead in addressing short-term emergencies while also investing in programs to eradicate hunger in the long-run. In addition, the positive economic impacts of our food aid investments are clear. In recent years, U.S. food aid programs have distributed more than 2.5 million tons of U.S. commodities, including wheat, corn, corn soy blend, dry beans, rice, vegetable oil, yellow peas, lentils and sorghum.

This legislative process presents an opportunity to evaluate existing authorities to determine whether they continue to best meet both emergency and development needs. We encourage you to seize this occasion to reinforce U.S. leadership in the fight against global hunger by increasing flexibility in our food aid program structure.

As you complete your draft bill, we urge you to support the bipartisan compromise on food aid in the bill passed by the full Senate. This compromise will preserve support for development food aid programs while also increasing flexibility to meet emergency needs around the world, particularly in areas that are of national security concern for the U.S. In addition, the reforms in the Senate bill will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of food aid, ensuring greater impact for each dollar spent.

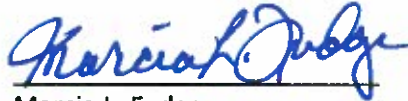
We believe these reforms would honor the legacy of our late colleague, Congressman Donald M. Payne, who fought tirelessly to realize a vision of U.S. foreign assistance that reaches the most marginalized today while empowering people to become less aid-dependent tomorrow. We appreciate your thoughtful leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to craft changes to U.S. food aid programs to ensure that they meet the humanitarian and development needs of the 21st century.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



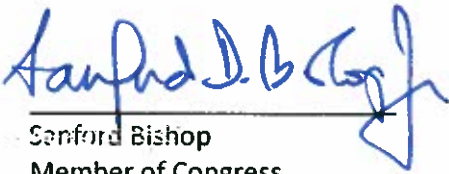
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Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
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Howard Berman  
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Sanford Bishop  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Corrine Brown  
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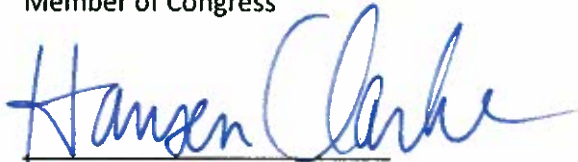
Michael E. Capuano  
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Russ Carnahan  
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André Carson  
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Hansen Clarke  
Member of Congress



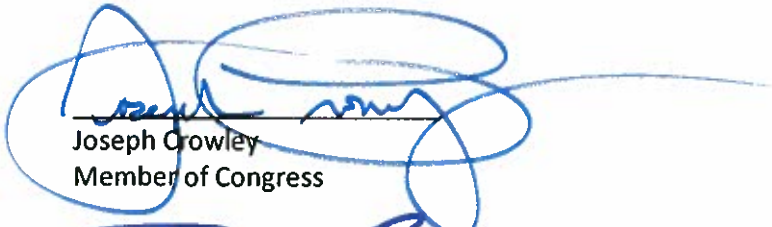
Yvette D. Clarke  
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Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



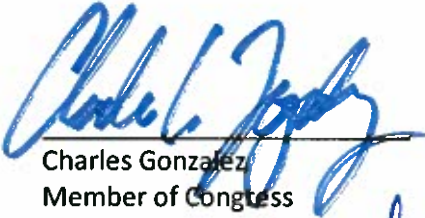
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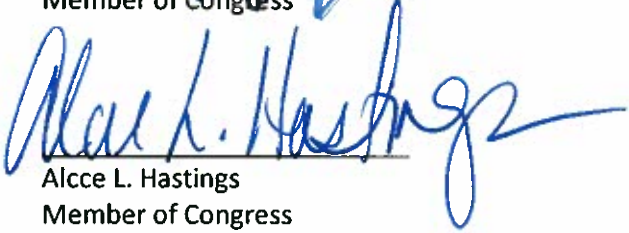
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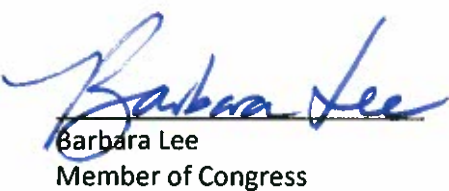
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Barbara Lee  
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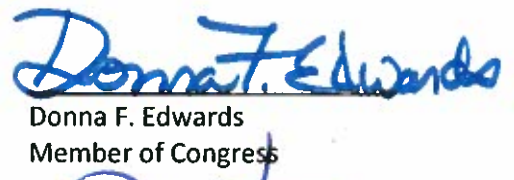
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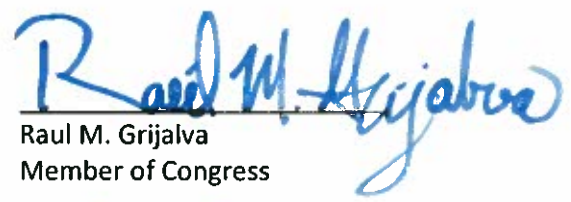
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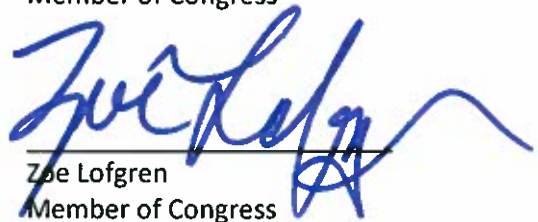
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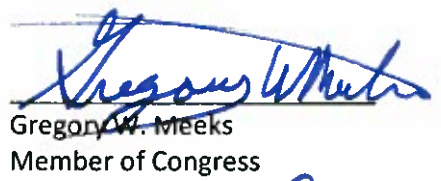
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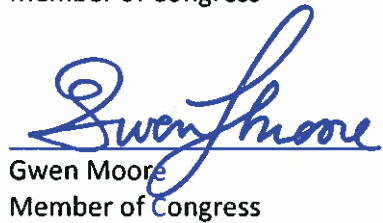
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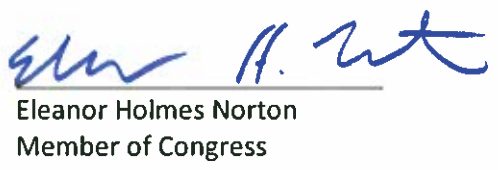
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