

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

November 15, 2012

Mr. Michael B. Colbert  
Director  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services  
30 E. Broad Street, 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Director Colbert:

The purpose of this letter is to request your immediate assistance in preventing reduced Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit levels for Ohioans starting in January 2013.

It was recently reported that SNAP benefit levels, for participating Ohio households, will soon see a decrease of approximately \$50 every month because of annual adjustments in standard utility expenses. We are greatly concerned about the ramifications of cutting SNAP benefits to low-income Ohioans.

Cutting food assistance will likely force Ohioans to seek help at our already overburdened food banks. In addition, we are concerned about the economic impacts of reducing the food purchasing power of Ohio's 1.7 million SNAP participants.

We understand that states have significant flexibility developing the methodology used to calculate standard utility expenses. We have contacted the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding this matter. It is our understanding that other Midwestern states have used methodologies that will not result in reductions in SNAP benefit levels of the magnitude projected in Ohio.

Consequently, we urge the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to re-engage with USDA to develop a new methodology or find an alternative solution to prevent unnecessary and severe cuts to the SNAP benefits on which many of Ohio's most vulnerable depend. Enclosed please find a similar letter we sent to USDA urging them to use every available authority to help prevent SNAP cuts for Ohioans.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



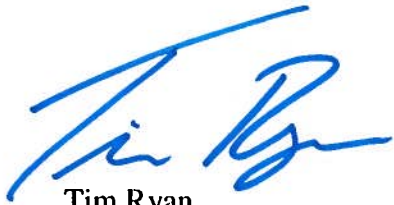
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress



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