

May 31, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-218 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Members  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-218 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Obey and Ranking Members Cochran and Lewis:

As you finalize the FY 2010 Supplemental Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you include \$580 million in funding for P.L. 480 Title II (Title II), an increase of \$430 million over the president's request. Without additional funding, the World Food Program (WFP) and other humanitarian organizations will be forced to reduce lifesaving assistance to some of the world's most vulnerable populations who have been devastated by humanitarian emergencies.

As you know, the level of need around the world is great. Due to the continued impact of the global economic downturn on vulnerable populations, as well as the emergency needs stemming from conflict, drought and other natural disasters, the \$1.5 billion (approximately \$1.4 billion from Title II and \$100 million from the International Disaster Assistance Account) currently available for emergency food assistance will not be sufficient to meet the anticipated need or the level of commitment typically provided by the United States.

Based on the WFP's assessment of global emergency food aid requirements, at least \$5.2 billion is needed this year to cover the cost of commodities and related transportation, storage, handling, distribution, administration and monitoring. The U.S. typically provides at least 40 percent of global emergency food assistance contributions, which would translate into \$2.08 billion for 2010.

The administration's \$150 million request will help address relief and recovery needs in Haiti, but will not address shortfalls in other countries. Additional resources are needed to support WFP operations in the frontline states of Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as in Sudan, Kenya, Chad, Ethiopia and many other countries. In Afghanistan, for example, which is now the central front of U.S. and global military efforts to combat terrorism, WFP operations are the single largest social service in the country, reaching 25 percent of the population with school meals, food for work projects and other food assistance.

For more than 50 years, U.S. food aid programs have demonstrated America's generosity and goodwill to people around the world in need whose friendship and support we want. In 2008, Title II emergency food aid programs distributed nearly 2 million metric tons of U.S. commodities, including wheat, corn, corn soy blend, red beans, pinto beans, rice, vegetable oil, yellow peas, lentils and sorghum. Farmers take great pride in their support for the world's most vulnerable through U.S. emergency food aid programs.

We know you are working under extremely difficult budget constraints this year. We thank you for past efforts to ensure the U.S. leads the global community in addressing emergency hunger needs and we urge you to help continue that leadership now.

May 31, 2010

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Soybean Association  
DSM North America  
Global Food & Nutrition Inc.  
Grain Pro, Inc.  
Kraft Foods  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Farmers Union  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
North American Millers' Association  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice Federation  
US Dry Bean Council  
US Wheat Associates

CC: The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chairman, Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee  
The Honorable Sam Brownback, Ranking Member, Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairman, House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee  
The Honorable Jack Kingston, Ranking Member, House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee