

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
2362-A Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 201515

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Bishop,

As you determine funding priorities for the Fiscal Year 2018 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the **George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program** at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

McGovern-Dole is a global school feeding program that promotes education, child development and food security for some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable children. It provides donations of U.S. agricultural commodities and financial and technical assistance for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income countries. Over the years it has proven to be one of our most effective international poverty-focused development programs, having reached over 44 million children in 40 countries. Since the time that Congress established this program, it has been rigorously evaluated, including by the General Accountability Office, and made significant improvements over the years in program implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

With over 400 million children suffering from chronic hunger and over 130 million not attending school, reaching those who could benefit from the McGovern-Dole Program requires a firm commitment to continued support and significant resources. For just a few cents a day, McGovern-Dole has made a difference in the lives of children and communities, promoted American values in the most positive terms, and helped achieve U.S. foreign policy and national security goals. Its flexibility and ability to be tailored to local needs ensure that American products, commodities, and financial and technical support are directly associated with hunger alleviation, educational opportunity and sustainable development. Few programs deliver so much for such a minimal investment.

Rising food and transportation costs continue to erode the ability of McGovern-Dole to maintain projects, let alone increase the number of child beneficiaries. Each year, USDA receives scores of proposals for McGovern-Dole projects that remain unfunded, demonstrating the range of need that still exists to be met and the necessity for increased funding. We are

mindful, however, of the budget constraints confronting the Committee this year and while we would prefer substantial increases in funding for McGovern-Dole, **we request that the program receive no less than the FY 2016 levels of \$201 million, or the same as the FY 2017 level, whichever is greater.**

Thank you for your attention and serious consideration of this request.

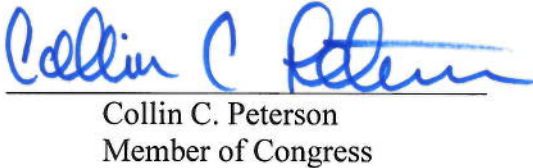
Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



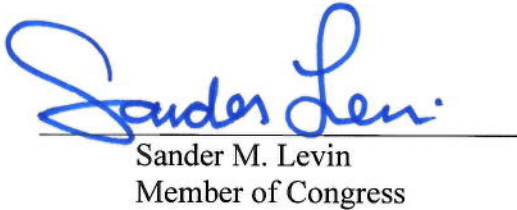
Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



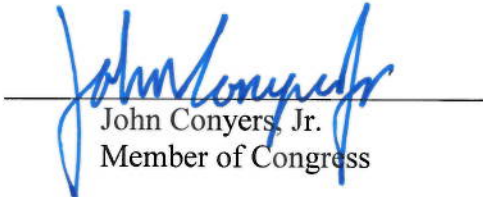
Roger W. Marshall
Member of Congress



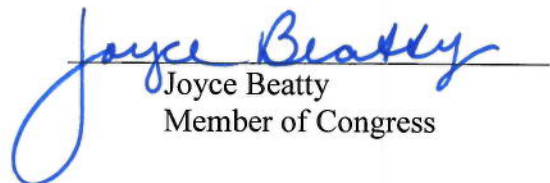
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



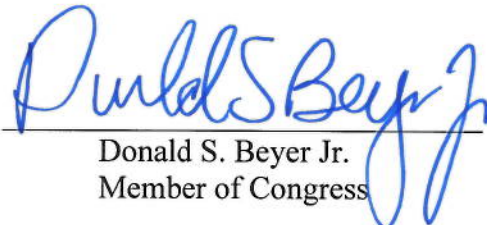
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



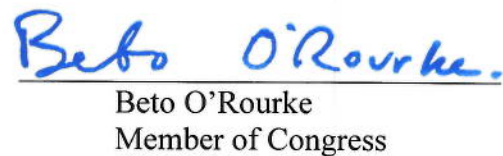
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

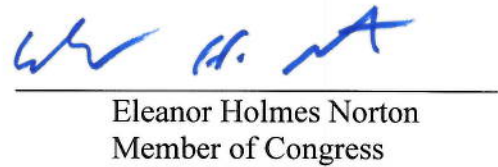


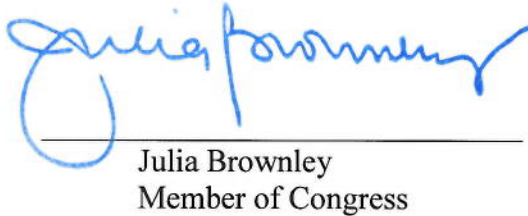
Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

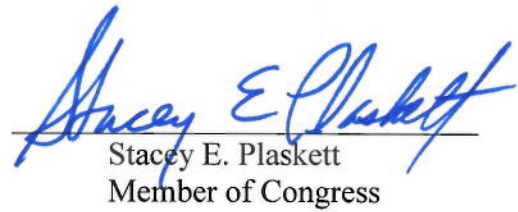

John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

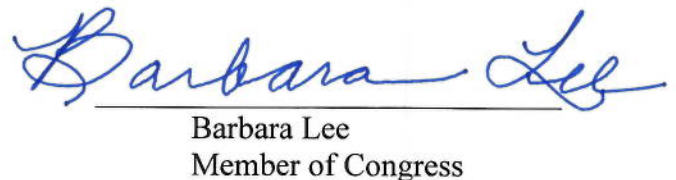

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

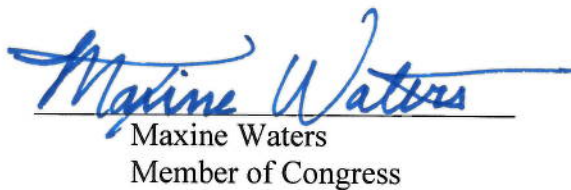

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

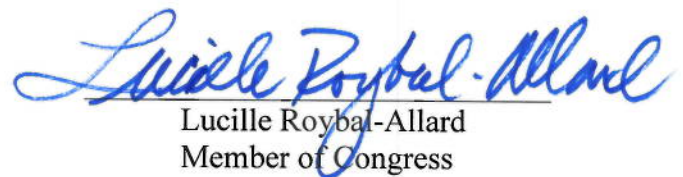

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

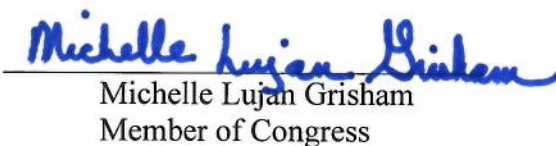

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

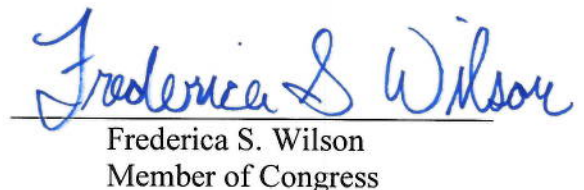

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

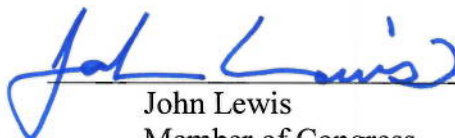

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



John Lewis
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Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



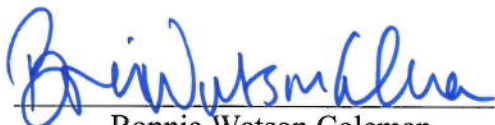
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



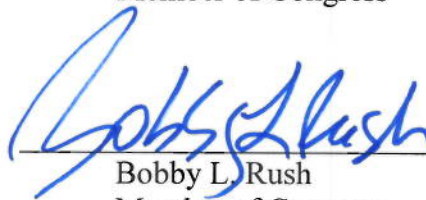
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress




Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



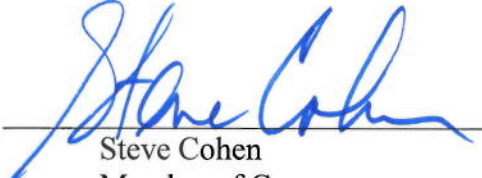
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress




Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

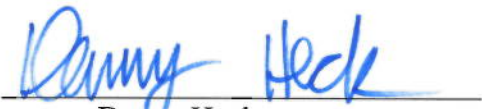

David Scott
Member of Congress

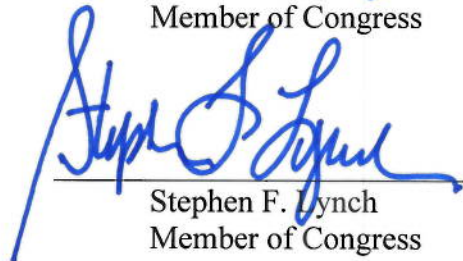

William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

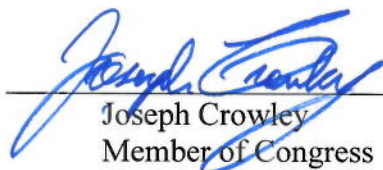

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

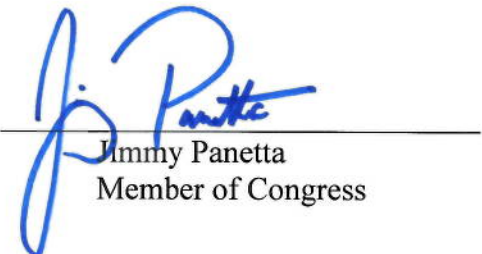

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress


Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress


Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress


Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Jim Costa

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress