

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 28, 2022

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair, Senate Appropriations Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 709
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 338
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chair, House Appropriations Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2362-
A Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2334
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Baldwin and Bishop and Ranking Members Hoeven and Harris:

We write to respectfully request that you include additional funding beyond what has already been provided in FY2022 appropriations legislation for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in omnibus spending legislation or any additional COVID relief supplemental spending legislation.

The charitable food system continues to experience an on-average 40 percent increase in demand for local emergency hunger relief, with over 60 million people turning to food banks in 2020¹. This rise comes at a time when past emergency food support provided by Congress has ended. As we continue to observe a high demand for food assistance, food banks will need additional support to ensure they can meet the demand from community members, families, and children facing hunger.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods including TEFAP are the cornerstone of the food supply for our nation's food banks. According to Feeding America, USDA commodities provide approximately 39 percent of the food distributed by their network of 200 food banks and 60,000 local faith-based and charitable partner organizations. Last year, USDA foods provided 2.4 billion meals distributed to their network food banks. Many food banks could struggle to meet the demand for food assistance without the fresh fruits, vegetables, protein, and more provided through the program.

¹ [State-By-State Resource: The Coming Food Bank Crisis - Your Community May Face a Food Crisis in 2021 - Feeding America Action](#)

Further, TEFAP is essential to rural communities. Rural communities make up 63 percent of all counties in the United States, but account for 87 percent of counties with the highest rates of food insecurity in the nation². Last year, through USDA commodities, food banks distributed 1.2 billion pounds of food to rural America³, with TEFAP providing nearly 40 percent of this assistance. For years, farmers, agriculture partners, and food banks have maintained a deep working relationship to provide U.S. grown commodities to families and children facing hunger.

We can help address the need for emergency food bank support by providing an additional \$900 million for food purchases through TEFAP. We ask that you include this additional critical funding to ensure food insecure families can put food on the table.

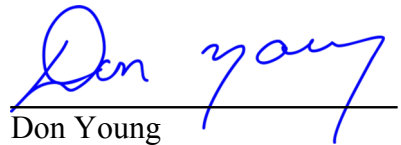
Sincerely,



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



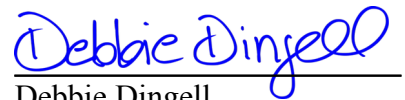
Shontel M. Brown
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Don Young
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Jake Auchincloss
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Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



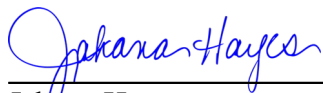
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



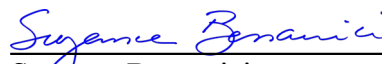
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

² [Rural Hunger Facts | Feeding America](#)

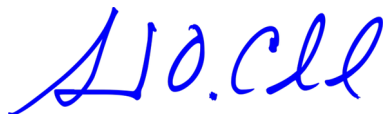
³ [The Emergency Food Assistance Program is Rural America's Hunger Lifeline - Feeding America Action](#)



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



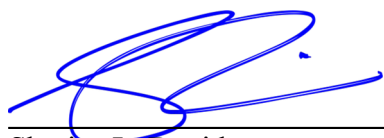
Jim Costa
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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Mike Thompson
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Sharice L. Davids
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James P. McGovern
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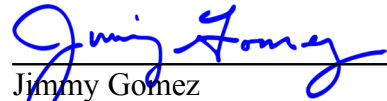
Nikema Williams
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Lori Trahan
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Jimmy Gomez
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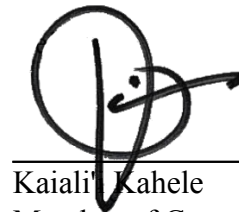
John Garamendi
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Daniel Meuser
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Julia Brownley
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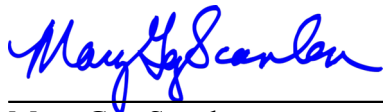
Kaiali'i Kahele
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Earl Blumenauer
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Ann McLane Kuster
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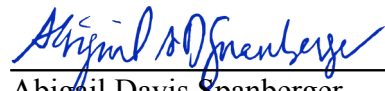
Mary Gay Scanlon
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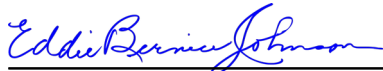
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



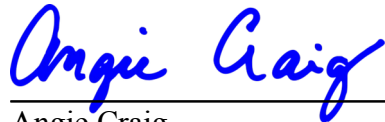
David N. Cicilline
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Abigail Davis Spanberger
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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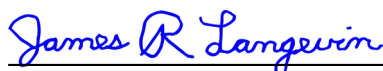
Angie Craig
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Conor Lamb
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Eric Swalwell
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James R. Langevin
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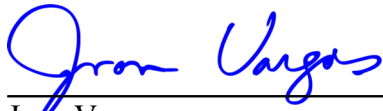
Ted W. Lieu
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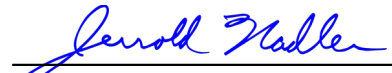
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



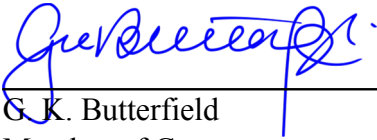
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



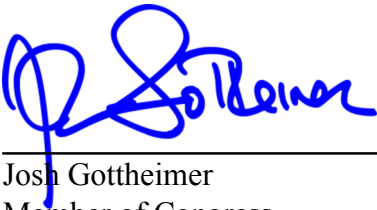
Jerrold Nadler
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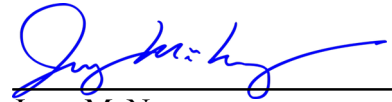
G. K. Butterfield
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



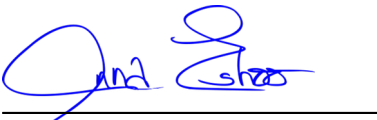
Jerry McNerney
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Rick Larsen
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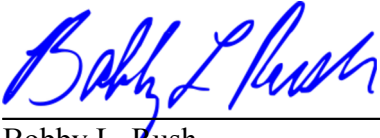
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



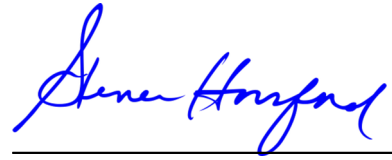
Anna G. Eshoo
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Bobby L. Rush
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Steven Horsford
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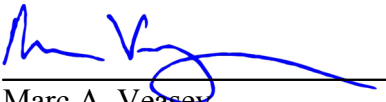
Carolyn B. Maloney
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Marc A. Veasey
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Katie Porter
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Deborah K. Ross
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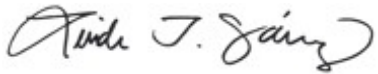
Ritchie Torres
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Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



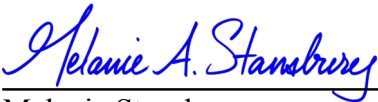
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Veronica Escobar
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Melanie Stansbury
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Stacey E. Plaskett
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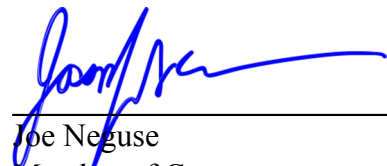
Raúl M. Grijalva
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Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



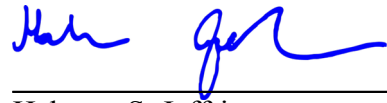
Troy Carter
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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Hakeem S. Jeffries
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