

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2025

Mrs. Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We write regarding the reported cancellation of hundreds of millions of dollars in previously approved funding for food banks and other emergency food providers through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). A cancellation of these funds could result in \$500 million in lost food provisions to feed millions of Americans at a time when the need for food shelves is extremely high due to costly groceries and an uncertain economy. If true, this major shift in a program utilized by emergency food providers in every state in the nation will have a significant and damaging impact upon millions of people who depend upon this program for critical food assistance.

In addition, this program consists of purchases of U.S. commodities at a time when America's growers and producers are struggling due to tariffs, proposed tariffs, animal disease and many other challenges.

According to recent statistics, nearly one in every seven Americans have faced food insecurity. Many of these households turn to community and emergency relief organizations such as food banks and food pantries to help them obtain sufficient nutrition. In 2023 alone, 50 million Americans turned to emergency food providers, according to a report from Feeding America, America's largest network of food banks. While food banks rely on a variety of sources (including private) to obtain food for distribution through their networks, federally purchased commodities are a key part of how they provide nutritious meals to Americans.

Due to this reported change, a number of us have heard that trucks delivering American-grown foods may not arrive. These trucks represent hundreds of thousands of nutritious meals containing poultry, fruits, vegetables, and dairy. If confirmed, the cancellation of this previously announced funding also comes on top of the cancellation of Local Food for School Program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program funding, which also helps farmers deliver nutritious foods to schools and food banks. These cuts will deprive Americans of food assistance, emergency food providers of necessary support to carry out their work, and American farmers of vital domestic markets.

To help us understand USDA's actions and their impact on communities around the country, we ask that you answer the following questions.

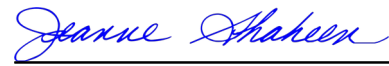
1. Has USDA cancelled previously approved purchases of food provided through TEFAP? If so, what level of funding has been cancelled thus far and when will state agencies be notified of any cancelled TEFAP purchases?
2. Does USDA plan to cancel additional purchases of food provided through TEFAP?
3. Has USDA paused any TEFAP food orders or purchases? If so, what is the current status of those orders or purchases? Does USDA intend to un-pause these funds?
4. Please provide information on what types of funding, by commodity, have been cancelled and the financial impact of those cancellations on producers such as pork, chicken, turkey and dairy farmers.
5. Is the funding announced on October 1, 2024 and detailed in the implementation memo that the Food and Nutrition Service sent to state agencies on December 2 rescinded?
6. Does USDA intend to use Commodity Credit Corporation funds in Fiscal Year 2025 for future purchases that will be distributed through TEFAP?

We ask for a prompt response to these questions by the end of the week.

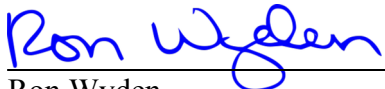
Sincerely,



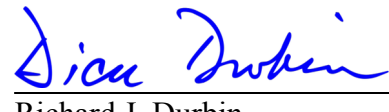
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



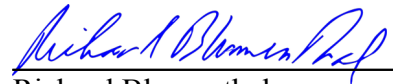
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



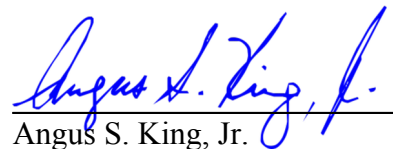
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



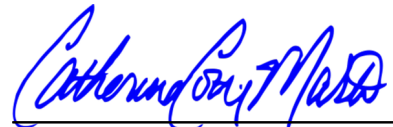
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator




Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



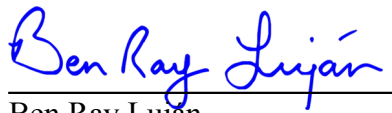
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



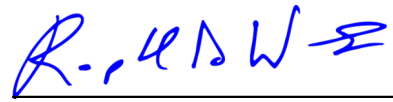
Tina Smith
United States Senator



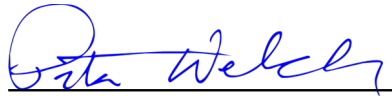
Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator