

2162 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: 202-225-6116
FAX: 202-225-5590
WWW.PINGREE.HOUSE.GOV



CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, MAINE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND
RESEARCH
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

April 23, 2021

Lisa Jahns, National Program Leader
Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program
National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA
P.O. Box 419205, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

Dear Dr. Jahns,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Cumberland County Food Security Council's (CCFSC) application to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program. CCFSC is a collaboration of stakeholders whose mission is to increase food access for vulnerable people in Cumberland County, Maine's most populous county, by working together to initiate, strategize, and innovate solutions to hunger by advocating, sharing information and resources, and taking collective action.

Based on USDA ERS most recent Household Food Security in the US, Maine is second from the bottom in very low food security. One in five Maine children are food insecure. This problem has only been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. CCFSC seeks to address this critical issue in a comprehensive way by convening key stakeholders including public officials, low-income individuals, farmers, and business people to enhance food security and support a sustainable food system. Specifically, the proposal submitted by the CCFSC is designed to increase the presence of fresh, local, culturally appropriate food in communities with limited access. It would elevate the voices of people from marginalized communities to develop strategies toward a more healthy food system.

As an organic farmer for much of my life, policies and programs that increase access to sustainable food and reduce hunger are high priorities for me. The work being done by the CCFSC to further these goals is essential. I am grateful for the leadership CCFSC is providing in coordinating these efforts and believe the investment of federal dollars they are requesting will have a significant impact in promoting food security.

Once again, I fully support the proposal submitted by the CCFSC and urge your full and fair consideration of their request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chellie Pingree". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chellie" being more prominent than the last name "Pingree".

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress