

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Secretary Rollins,

We write to express our deep dismay and concern regarding the United States Department of Agriculture decision to terminate Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreements for 2025 and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS) across the country. This decision will impact farmers across the country and strip food away from people, including children, who need it.

The LFPA program provided funding across the country to purchase locally and regionally sourced foods to maintain and improve agricultural supply chain resiliency. As you may recall, the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare issues with our agricultural supply chain. The LFPA program worked to ensure food and beverages purchased were healthy, nutritious and unique to their geographic areas, meeting the needs of the population. Food purchased through the program supported feeding programs, including food banks, which continue to experience unprecedented demand. The LFS program provided funds to support the purchase of domestic local food to provide in schools and at child care facilities. Paired together, LFPA and LFS bolstered our local and regional supply chains to support producers and ensure Americans had access to nutritious food.

At a time when farmers are facing increased input costs and significant uncertainty due to the indiscriminate funding freeze on certain USDA funds, and when grocery costs have not come down and more families are relying on food banks and school meals, it is reckless and cruel to cancel LFPA and LFS awards to states.

We request answers to the following questions by March 21, 2025:

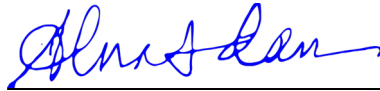
1. How much LFPA25 and LFS funding was clawed back by USDA?
2. How does USDA intend to use the funds clawed back?
3. What is USDA's legal justification for cancelling already agreed to LFPA and LFS contracts with states?
4. How many farmers benefitted from previous rounds of LFPA and LFS funding?
5. How will USDA assist farmers in the coming growing season that lost a market due to LFPA and LFS termination?
6. How will USDA assist additional impacted communities, including feeding programs, school children and school nutrition professionals, and child care facilities?

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



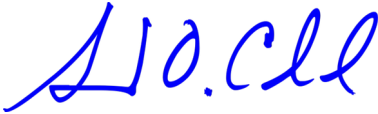
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



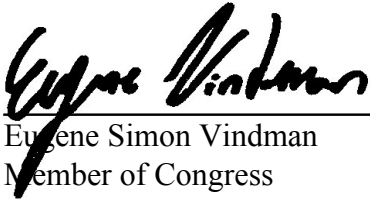
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



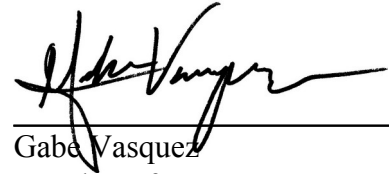
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



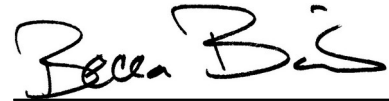
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



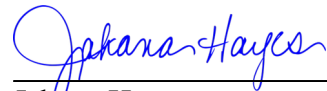
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



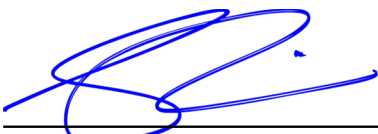
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



JM Tokuda
Member of Congress




Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress




Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress




Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress




George Whitesides
Member of Congress



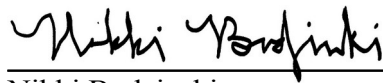
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress




John B. Larson
Member of Congress




Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



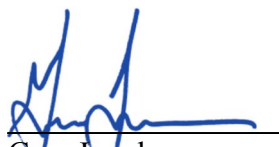
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress




Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



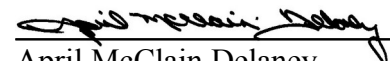
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress




Diana DeGette
Member of Congress




Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



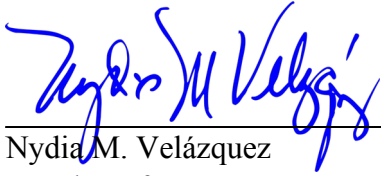
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



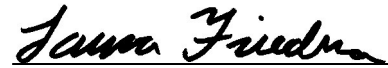
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



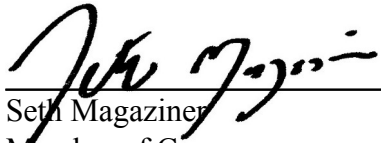
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



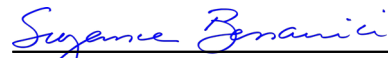
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



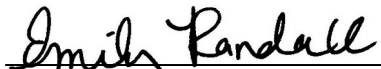
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



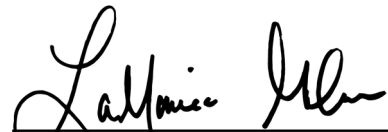
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



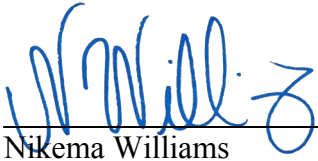
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



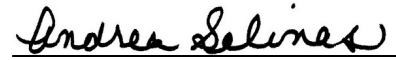
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



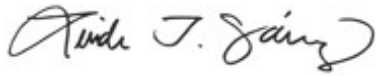
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



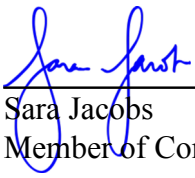
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
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Stacey E. Plaskett
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Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
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Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



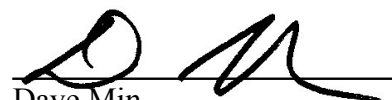
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



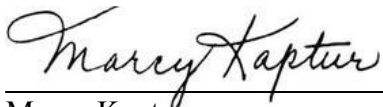
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



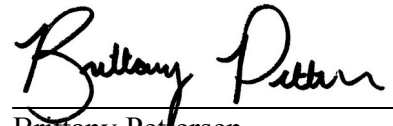
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



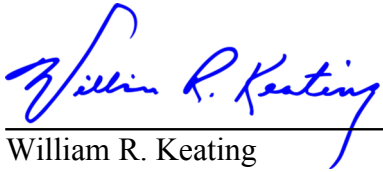
Dave Min
Member of Congress



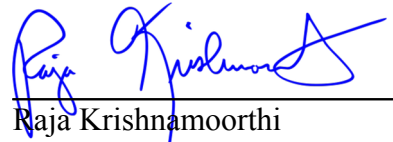
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



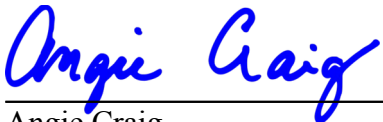
Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee on
Agriculture



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



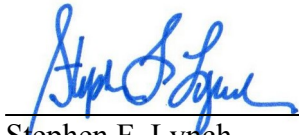
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



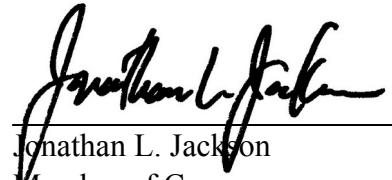
Joe Courtney
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Jim Costa
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



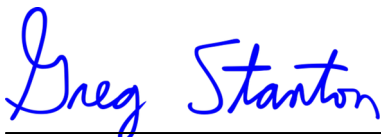
Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



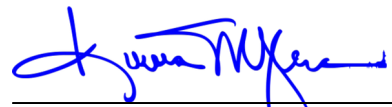
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
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Kweisi Mfume
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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Ro Khanna
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Eric Swalwell
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