Sander Levin
U.S. House of Representatives
9th Congressional District, Michigan

March 19, 2015

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Farr,

We respectfully ask that you allocate $221.298 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Fiscal Year 2016 Agriculture Appropriations bill. This funding level is consistent with the President's fiscal year 2016 budget request.

As you know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities primarily to seniors. In this time of continued economic hardship, reliance on nutrition assistance is greater than ever. CSFP is an important component of our nutrition efforts because it reaches many seniors who qualify for no other program while providing delivery for those that are homebound.

CSFP provides 614,000 food packages each month in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 Indian Tribal Organizations. This year 99 percent of the participants are elderly individuals with an income at or below $15,171. CSFP food packages are designed to supplement needed sources of nutrients typically lacking in participants' diets, including protein, iron, zinc, and vitamins B-6 and B-12. CSFP providers also have been very cost efficient: the typical food package has a retail value up to $50 but costs the Federal government approximately $22 per participant package.

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We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that no American goes hungry.

Sincerely,

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
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Dina Titus
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Mark Takai
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Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
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Al Green
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Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr
Member of Congress

Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress