

# Support Food for Peace

USA Maritime, a coalition of American maritime labor unions and U.S.-flag shipping companies, strongly opposes the Administration's proposal to replace the time-tested Food for Peace (PL 480) Program with a cash-based system (the "Emergency Food Security Program" or EFSP) that sends American taxpayer dollars overseas instead of nutritious American-grown food. PL 480 is an effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent program that saves lives by sending U.S. food to the neediest people overseas while providing important benefits here at home too.

Now more than ever, we must ensure that the expenditure of every American taxpayer dollar is well spent. We believe very strongly that it is the current Food for Peace program and not EFSP that provides the best value for the American taxpayer:

- According to information from USAID, dollar for dollar, PL 480 delivers more food than EFSP. In FY 12, EFSP delivered about 177,000 tons of food for an expenditure of \$375 million whereas PL 480 delivered about 986,000 tons of emergency food for an expenditure of \$1.2 billion. EFSP was 78% more expensive than PL 480 per emergency food ton delivered.
- PL 480 buys from American farmers and employs militarily-useful U.S.-flag vessels with U.S. citizen crews to deliver food aid to those who need it. The Administration's proposal to eliminate PL 480 in favor of EFSP means that the American people will be financing the purchase of not only foreign agricultural products but foreign shipping services, outsourcing American farm and maritime jobs overseas.
- PL 480 contributes to our national security by providing an important source of cargo for the U.S.-flag vessels relied upon by the military. The Administration's proposal to shift PL 480 budget resources into EFSP will eliminate this base of cargo for U.S.-flag vessels, weaken America's maritime industry, reduce the available pool of mariners, and undermine the ability of our industry to support America's troops overseas. The Administration proposal hurts our national defense sealift capability.
- Draining PL 480's resources into EFSP means that instead of employing the 44,000 Americans whose jobs depend upon the program, our tax dollars will be used to buy foreign-source food, food processing, and transportation services. American workers deserve to do the work their taxes pay for.
- Sending food overseas to the starving makes a clear difference to those in need—sending cash overseas raises issues of accountability and transparency. Using the foreign purchase program, USDA purchased food from the Government of Pakistan instead of American farmers—even though Pakistan's closure of its borders to our troops reportedly cost our taxpayers a hundred million dollars a month to continue the war in Afghanistan.
- The Administration does not need more flexibility to conduct cash transfers in lieu of food donations—In FY12, EFSP received \$375 million (up from \$232 million in FY11), with more funding available to USAID in the International Disaster Assistance Account. There's no need to gut PL 480.

PL 480 buys more food for each budget dollar and is a more transparent and accountable program. American taxpayer dollars should not be shifted to EFSP to the detriment of the American farmer, the American mariner, and our national security.

We call on Congress to reject the Administration's proposal.