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Congress of the United States
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May 23, 2013

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I write to express my support for the Food for Peace Program (PL 480) in its current form. This program is a lifeline for farmers and U.S. merchant marines.

The Food for Peace Program provides humanitarian assistance and food aid around the world. This program not only supports the needs of those abroad, it is also critical to supporting the employment of U.S. farmers and merchant mariners. The purchase of food from U.S. farmers and its subsequent shipment on U.S.-flagged vessels supports roughly 44,000 jobs in this country. Eliminating this form of in-kind food assistance could jeopardize these American jobs.

Changes to the program in its current form would not only jeopardize American jobs, it could also have national security implications. The U.S. government relies on the availability of U.S.-flagged, U.S.-crewed ships. Reducing the domestic sealift capacity on which our military depends could impact our nation's preparedness.

I urge you to preserve the Food for Peace Program in its current form and to maintain level funding. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter T. King".

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress