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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0544  
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Chairwoman Kay Granger  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
Rooms HT 2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

I write today to affirm my strong support for the continuation of the "Food for Peace" program created by Public Law 480 in its current form, and ask that you fund the program at \$2.3 billion, in Fiscal Year 2015 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill.

Since 1954, Food for Peace has enabled the United States to play a leading role in responding to international food assistance needs and ensuring global food security. In recent years, Title II of Food for Peace, which is administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, has become the largest vehicle for U.S. international food aid shipments. Under the program, U.S. agricultural commodities are shipped to developing countries to provide emergency relief to those facing food shortages and to support broader development objectives.

In fiscal year 2011, Food for Peace donated approximately 1.5 million metric tons of U.S.-grown Title II emergency and development food aid to more than 46 million food-insecure people in 48 countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. On November 7th 2013, Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the Philippines. The storm destroyed more than a million homes and left over 5,000 dead, with another 4 million as refugees. Food for Peace provided \$20 million dollars in food aid, including rice and emergency food bars, to the devastated region, and helped to connect both UN and private aid to the devastated islands.

Food for Peace is also critical to supporting employment among U.S. farmers and merchant mariners. The purchase of food from U.S. farmers and its subsequent shipment on U.S.-flagged vessels has helped support U.S. farm production and preserve the U.S. merchant marine. Reductions in funding for this program – or changes in how it operates – would significantly reduce the amount of U.S. farm products our nation could provide to those in need around the world. It would also threaten our national security preparedness by reducing the domestic sealift capacity on which our U.S. military depends.

I look forward to working with you to support U.S. farms, U.S. jobs, the U.S.-flagged merchant fleet, and our nation's ability to provide much needed humanitarian and emergency food assistance to the world's least-developed countries by funding the Food for Peace Program at \$2.3 billion in FY 2015.

Sincerely,

Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress