

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:

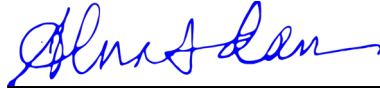
1. How much LFPA25 and LFS funding was clawed back by USDA?
2. How does USDA intend to use the funds clawed back?
3. What is USDA's legal justification for cancelling already agreed to LFPA and LFS contracts with states?
4. How many farmers benefitted from previous rounds of LFPA and LFS funding?
5. 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,



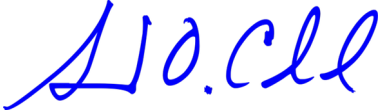
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



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



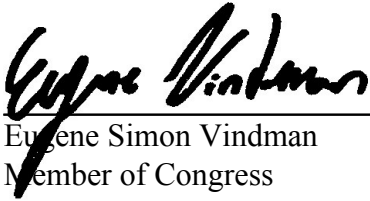
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



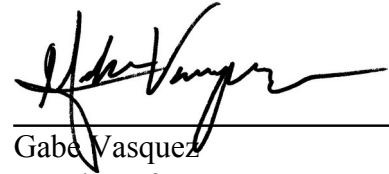
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



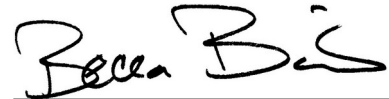
Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



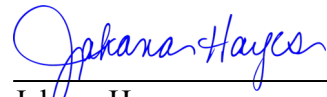
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



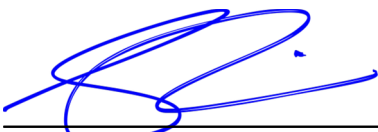
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress




Sharice L. Davids
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Scott H. Peters
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George Whitesides
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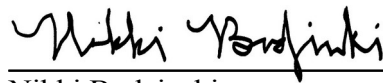
Shri Thanedar
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Mike Thompson
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John B. Larson
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Nikki Budzinski
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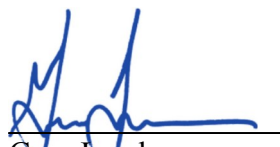
Eric Sorensen
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Haley M. Stevens
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



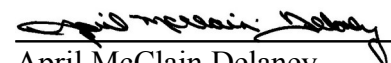
Greg Landsman
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Diana DeGette
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



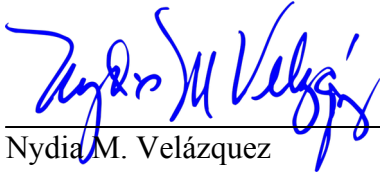
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



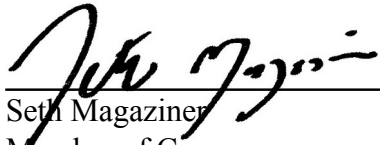
Laura Friedman
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Yassamin Ansari
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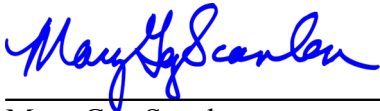
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



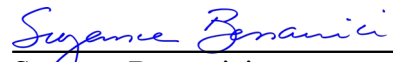
Seth Magaziner
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Lauren Underwood
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Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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Emily Randall
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Ayanna Pressley
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Deborah K. Ross
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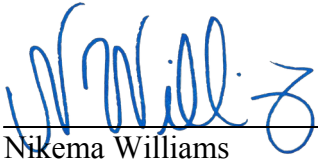
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



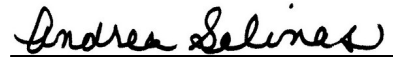
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



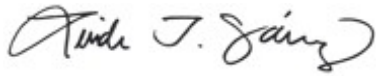
LaMonica McIver
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Nikema Williams
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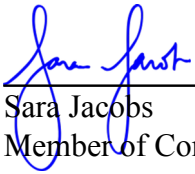
Andrea Salinas
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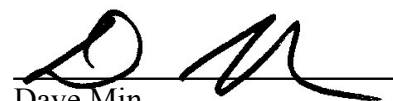
Yvette D. Clarke
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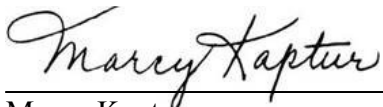
Mike Quigley
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Frank J. Mrvan
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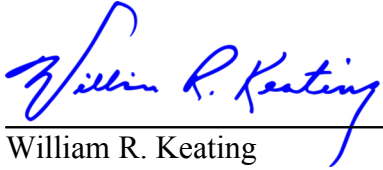
Dave Min
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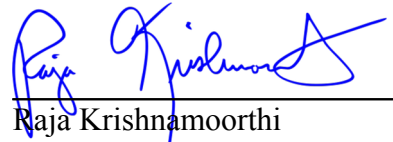
Marcy Kaptur
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Brittany Pettersen
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William R. Keating
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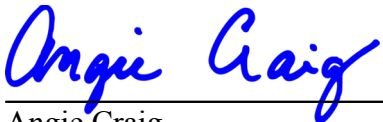
Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee on
Agriculture



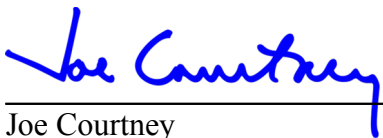
Bill Foster
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



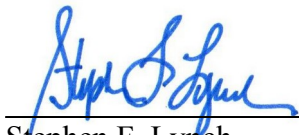
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



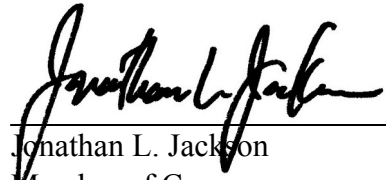
Joe Courtney
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Jim Costa
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



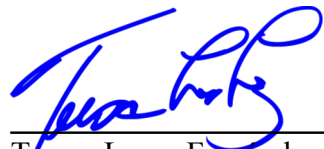
Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



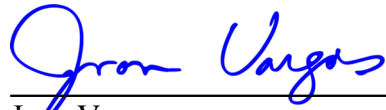
Derek T. Tran
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Teresa Leger Fernandez
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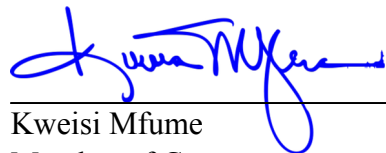
Lori Trahan
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Juan Vargas
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Greg Stanton
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Kweisi Mfume
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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