



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, and
Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, and
Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston,

We respectfully ask that you allocate \$176.788 million, the same amount requested in the President's proposed Fiscal Year 2011 budget, for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). We appreciate the Committee's support in the past, and are pleased to say at this time that the President's budget request provides adequate funding for the CSFP program in place today.

As you know, CSFP is a critical nutrition program that delivers U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities primarily to seniors, and mothers and children. In this time of 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 600,000 food packages each month in 39 states (including seven new states as a direct result of your action in FY 2010), the District of Columbia, and 2 Indian Tribal Organizations. This year 96 percent of the participants are elderly individuals with an income at or below \$14,079. 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 less than \$20 per participant package.

In a recent study of CSFP, the Urban Institute found that:

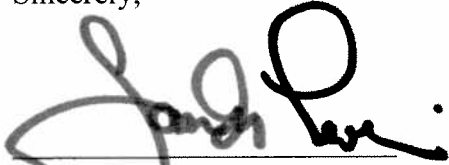
"CSFP has charms worth considering in designing human service programs. The administrative simplicity and familiar and comfortable atmosphere of the program are clearly attractions to a population that needs assistance but may be reluctant to seek help in settings it perceives as bureaucratic, stigmatized, or unsympathetic. The fact that the foods distributed are highly valued is clearly another [benefit]."

USDA/Urban Institute Study 2008

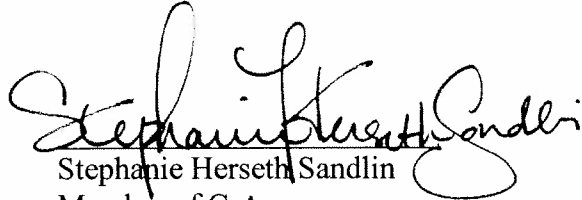
All CSFP operators are working hard to use the additional caseload slots made available as a result of the FY 2010 appropriation. In the months to come, we understand that up to four additional states may seek USDA approval for new CSFP programs. We will certainly keep you apprised of any additional developments that may have bearing on the funding level needed for FY 2011.

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

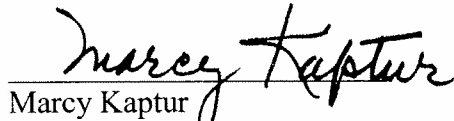
Sincerely,



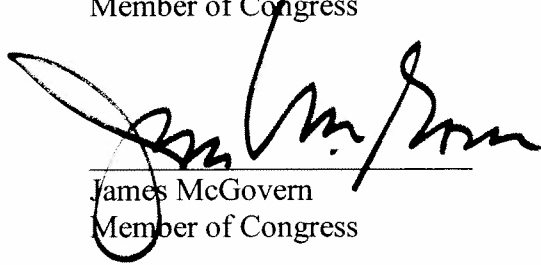
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



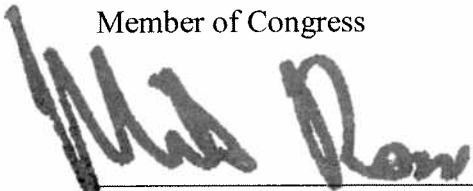
James McGovern
Member of Congress



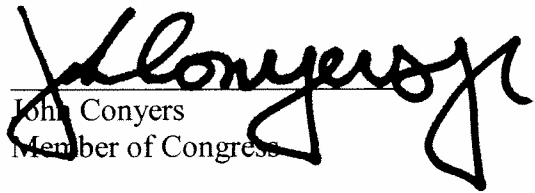
Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



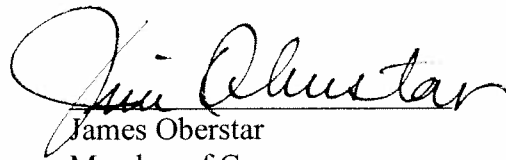
Mike Ross
Member of Congress



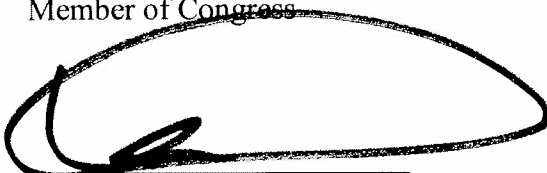
John Conyers
Member of Congress



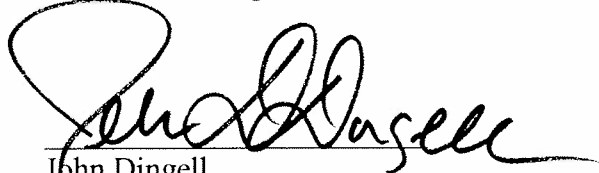
Gene Green
Member of Congress



James Oberstar
Member of Congress



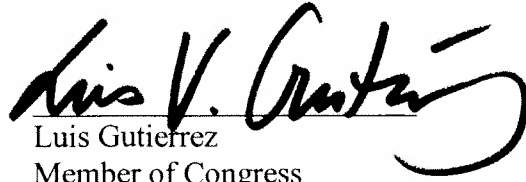
David Wu
Member of Congress



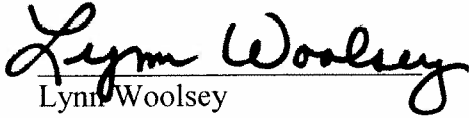
John Dingell
Member of Congress



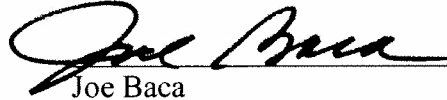
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



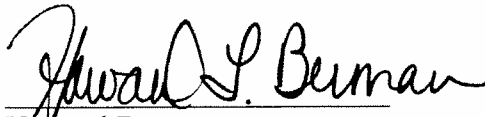
Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress



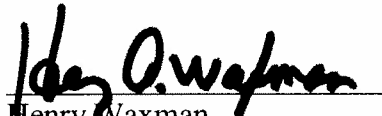
Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



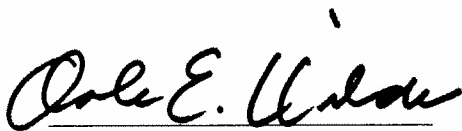
Joe Baca
Member of Congress



Howard Berman
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



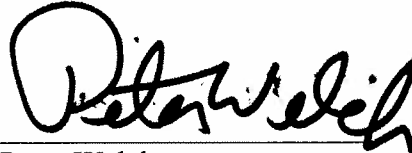
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



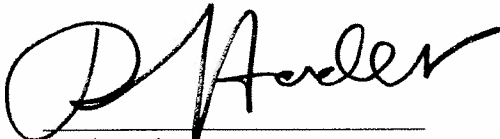
Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



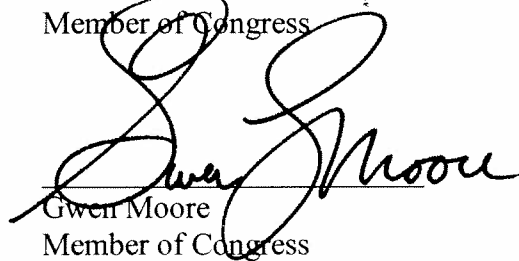
Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress



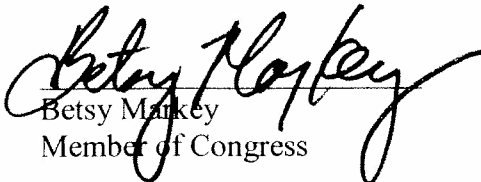
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



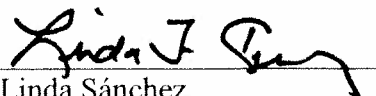
Paul Hodes
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



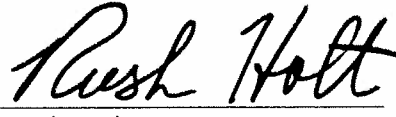
Betsy Markey
Member of Congress



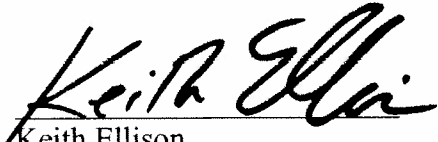
Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress



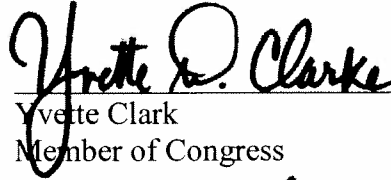
David Loeb sack
Member of Congress



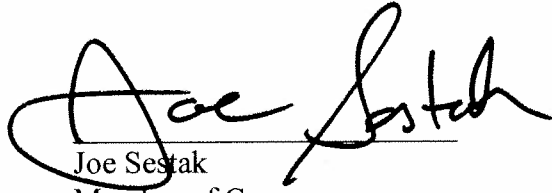
Rush Holt
Member of Congress




Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



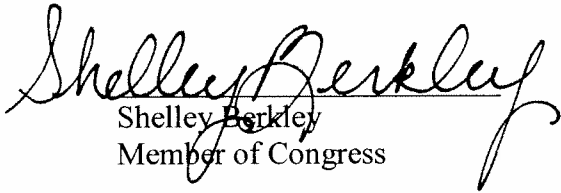
Yvette Clark
Member of Congress



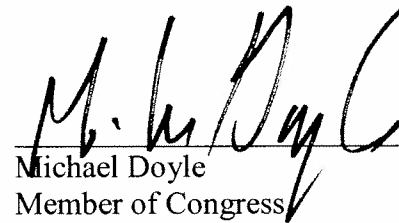
Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



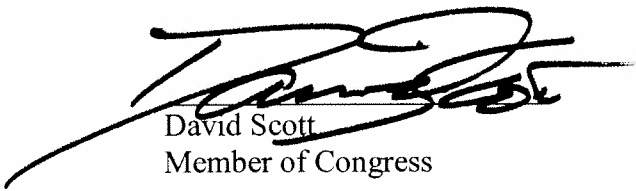
Michael Doyle
Member of Congress



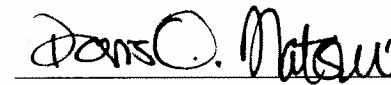
Jason Altmire
Member of Congress



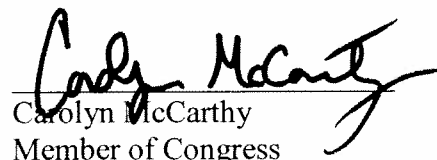
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



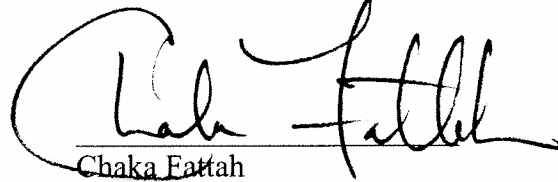
David Scott
Member of Congress



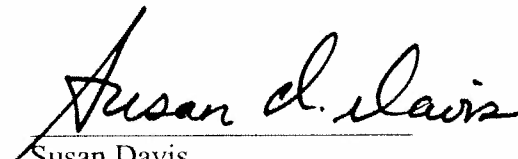
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



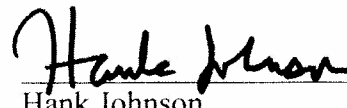
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



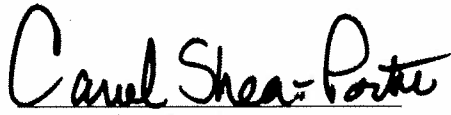
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



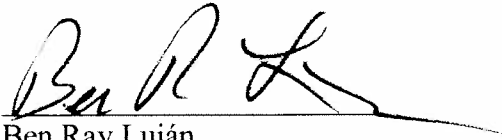
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



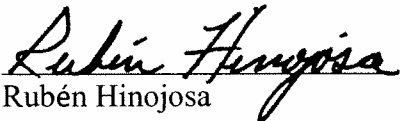
Gary Peters
Member of Congress



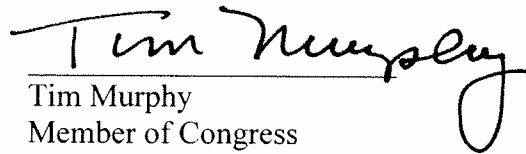
Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



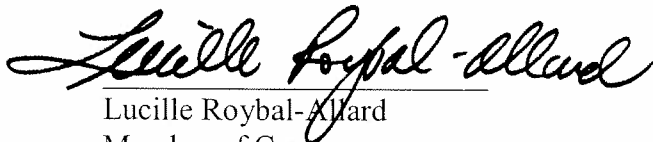
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



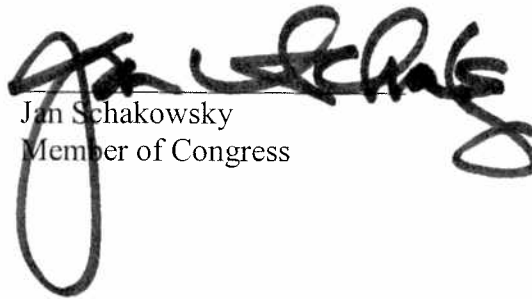
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress