

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Support the Commodity Supplemental Food Program

March 16, 2007

Dear Colleague,


We urge you to join with us to support for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, an important safety-net program that has provided food assistance for thousands of low-income seniors, women, and children operating in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian reservations. Additionally, USDA has approved five states—Arkansas, Delaware, Oklahoma, New Jersey, and Utah—to participate in CSFP, but because of insufficient resources, these states cannot begin implementing their plans.

In 2006, CSFP provided almost 6 million food packages to nearly 500,000 mothers, infants, children and, primarily, low-income seniors across the nation each month. CSFP food packages are designed to supplement needed sources of nutrients typically lacking in recipients' diets, including protein, iron, zinc, and vitamins B-6 and B-12.

CSFP providers also have been very cost efficient: the typical food package costs the government about \$16 per participant a month, with a retail equivalent of \$40 to \$50, and includes items such as canned tuna fish, peanut butter, cheese, cereal, and canned fruits and vegetables. Important sources of these commodities are crops purchased by the federal government to help relieve US growers in need.

We hope you will join us in continuing to support this important program. Please contact Oliver Kim with Senator Stabenow's staff (4-4822) or Zane Vaughn with Senator Domenici's staff (4-6621) for more information or to sign. This letter will close April 9.

Sincerely,


DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator


PETE DOMENICI
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2007

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Senate Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Agriculture
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Bennett
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Agriculture
431 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kohl and Ranking Member Bennett:

We ask for your continued support for funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in the Fiscal Year 2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill. As you know, CSFP is a complement to—not a substitute for—the Food Stamp Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

We urge you to appropriate sufficient resources so that providers can maintain at least their existing caseload. In 2006, CSFP provided more than 6 million food packages for nearly 500,000 mothers, infants, children, and low-income seniors across the nation. CSFP food packages are designed to supplement needed sources of nutrients typically lacking in recipients' 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 between \$40 to \$50 but costs the government about \$16 per participant a month.

Additionally, USDA has approved five states—Arkansas, Delaware, Oklahoma, New Jersey, and Utah—to participate in CSFP, but because of insufficient resources, these states cannot begin implementing their plans and are not able to serve those most in need. By including an additional \$3.9 million for CSFP, more than 20,000 seniors and children could be served.

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

Sincerely,
