

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Madam Secretary,

We write regarding recent decisions to discontinue the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreements for 2025, the Local Food for Schools (LFS) Cooperative Agreement Program, and the freeze of the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) funds. These programs benefit producers of all sizes, expand market opportunities, and increase resilience in our local food systems, particularly as farmers continue to navigate rising input costs and economic uncertainty. With these cancellations, more than 600 California farmers will lose a vital market, and families and children will lose an important lifeline and access to healthy, locally grown food. We request and encourage you to reverse this decision and continue to fully fund and support these important initiatives.


As Members of the California Delegation, we proudly represent the farmers and producers that contribute to California's agricultural abundance and the nation's food supply. Despite encompassing less than 4% of the country's farmland, California generates over 11% of the U.S. agricultural value; over a third of the country's vegetables and over three-quarters of the country's fruits and nuts are grown in California. It is important that this Administration continues to support California producers and bolster their access to local markets.

Given the significant role that USDA plays in bolstering local and regional agricultural supply chains in California and across the country, we urge your reconsideration of the discontinuation of the LFPA Cooperative Agreements for 2025 and LFS Cooperative Agreement Program. As you know, LFPA strengthens agricultural supply chains by facilitating the purchase of regionally grown food, while LFS helps schools and childcare facilities provide fresh, local options to students. These programs provide critical support to farmers and food producers in California while ensuring access to nutritious, locally sourced food for families, students, and communities, which we feel are in line with this Administration's stated goals to provide more opportunities for Americans to eat healthy, support farmers, and boost domestic demand for produce.


Additionally, both the freeze and cancellation of TEFAP funds will significantly impact our state's food banks who partner with their network of churches, schools, and food pantries. As of the writing of this letter, we are aware that food banks across the state have had over 300 food loads paused or cancelled across the network of 49 food banks for distribution to eligible individuals and households within 58 counties. This means less food than expected for food banks who are serving more than 6 million Californians each month.

We remain committed to working with USDA to find solutions that sustain and expand market access for American farmers while ensuring that families and communities continue to benefit from fresh, locally produced food. We respectfully request that you revisit these decisions in light of the millions of our constituents who would be impacted. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

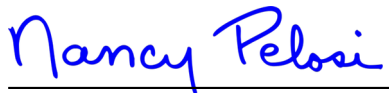
Sincerely,




Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress




Alex Padilla
United States Senator




Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



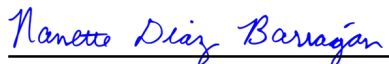
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator




Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



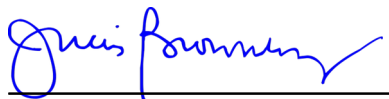
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



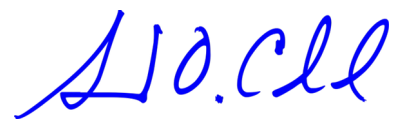
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



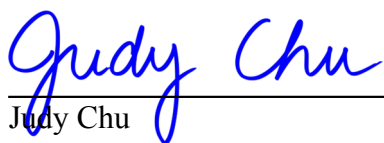
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



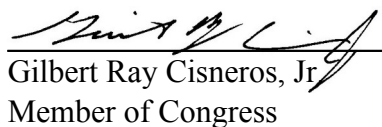
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Coast
Guard and Maritime
Transportation



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



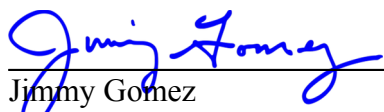
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



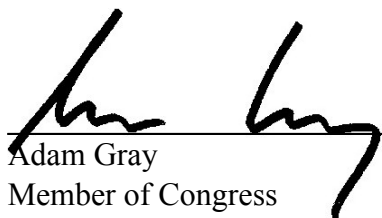
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
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Jimmy Gomez
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Adam Gray
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Jared Huffman
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Sara Jacobs
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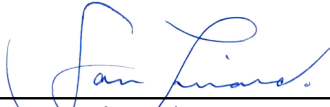
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Ro Khanna
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Mike Levin
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Sam T. Liccardo
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Ted W. Lieu
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Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



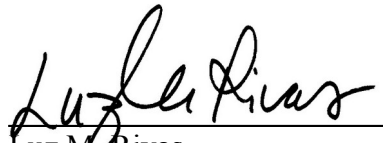
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



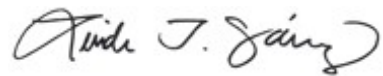
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



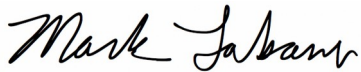
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



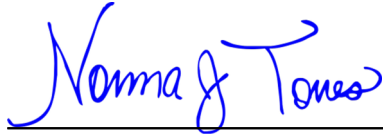
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



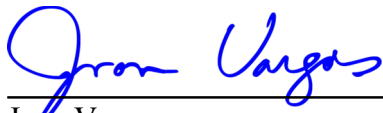
Mike Thompson
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Norma J. Torres
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Derek T. Tran
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Juan Vargas
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Maxine Waters
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