

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2025

Ms. Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We write to express serious concerns regarding the cancellation of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs supporting local and regional food purchases providing assistance to those in need. These [successful](#) programs, the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS), allow states, territories, and Tribes to purchase local foods from nearby farmers and ranchers to be used for emergency food providers, schools, and child care centers.

At a time when food insecurity remains high, providing affordable, fresh food to food banks and families while supporting American farmers is critical. Notably, LFPA and LFS have benefitted producers and consumers by providing funding for purchases through **all** 50 states, four territories, and 84 tribal governments.

Through LFPA and LFS, USDA has prioritized the procurement and distribution of healthy, nutritious, domestic food. It has also taken an important step towards igniting rural prosperity by expanding and strengthening markets among farmers and rural economies. As of December 2024, the programs had supported over 8,000 producers, providing increased marketing opportunities.

Most importantly, we ask that you reverse the cancellation of LFPA and LFS. We also ask that you provide a thorough and complete update on USDA's implementation of LFPA and LFS, including answers to the following questions:

1. What is the status of reimbursements for entities that have agreements with USDA through LFPA and LFS? What is the last date for which states, territories, and Tribes received reimbursements for food purchases under LFPA and LFS?
2. Has the Administration conducted any assessments of how these program cancellations will impact producers and recipient organizations (e.g., food banks, schools, child care centers)? If so, please provide a copy of any such assessments.

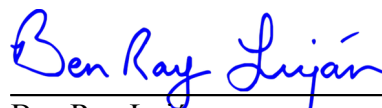
We have grave concerns that the cancellation of LFPA and LFS poses extreme harm to producers and communities in every state across the country. At a time of uncertainty in farm country, farmers need every opportunity to be able to expand market access for their products.

Please provide responses to the information requested in our questions no later than Friday, April 4. Thank you for your attention to this urgent and important matter.

Sincerely,



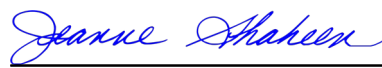
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member, Committee
on
Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry



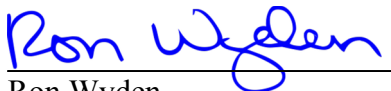
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations



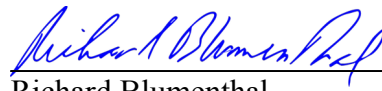
Tina Smith
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Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
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Richard Blumenthal
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United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



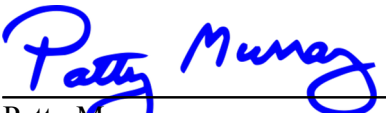
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



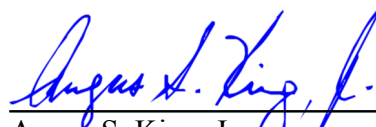
Jack Reed
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United States Senator



Patty Murray
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United States Senator



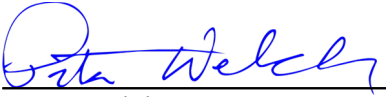
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



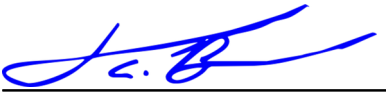
Jacky Rosen
U.S. Senator



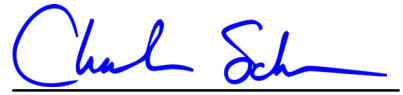
Peter Welch
United States Senator



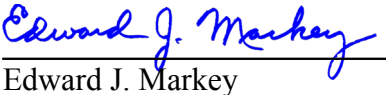
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United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator