Date:

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Our nation’s food and farm policies, as embodied in the Farm Bill, impact people and communities from rural American to developing countries. As you consider the 2023 Farm Bill, I urge you to prioritize poor and hungry people in the U.S. and abroad, strengthen rural communities, and promote sustainable stewardship of the land. I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program (CSFP) help lift millions of people out of poverty.

Specifically, I ask you to:

* Increase access to fresh fruit and vegetables by increasing support for produce-specific SNAP benefits in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).
* Eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including the ban on former drug offenders, work requirements for college students, and permitting indigenous communities to administer federal nutrition programs on reservations.
* Support rural development policies and programs, including practical support for those who grow our food and promoting programs focusing on good stewardship.
* Increase support for post-harvest food recovery efforts as well as policies and programs addressing the threat to food security poised by extreme weather.
* Support funding for international food aid programs such as Food for Peace.

As a Catholic Christian person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty – no matter where they live. This is why I urge you as a fellow person of faith to support a Farm Bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems for farmers and those who are most in need of food for life.

Thank you for all you do to prioritize our nation’s safety net for the poor, combat hunger worldwide, support our farmers and rural communities, and protect our environment.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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