

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

April 4, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We write regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recent decision to halt up to \$500 million in funding intended to support food banks and other providers from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25). Emergency food providers, producers, and community organizations across the country rely on TEFAP to deliver critical nutrition assistance to millions of Americans, including hundreds of thousands of Virginians.

Through TEFAP, USDA purchases nutritious commodity food from growers and producers, which is then provided to state agencies. Those agencies then deliver that food to distributors, including food banks and community organizations at no cost. More than 400 local pantries, including many faith-based partners from Hampton Roads to Southwest Virginia, distribute the food to eligible low-income recipients who typically do not qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and have few alternatives to turn to for help.

In Virginia, approximately 10 percent of households are "food insecure," meaning their access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources. On average, food pantry visits increased more than 20 percent in Virginia last year and Virginia food banks are spending five times more money now than in 2019 due to greater demand and higher food prices. TEFAP accounts for 20 percent of the food distributed by Virginia's food banks, and the currently suspended CCC orders represent around one-third of all TEFAP product Virginia food banks were expecting this year.

Given any suspension of TEFAP affects Virginia's families, growers, and communities, we request answers to the following questions:

1. Since USDA has relayed that it does not plan to move forward with distributing the previously announced \$500 million in funding from the CCC to food banks through TEFAP in FY25, does the Department have alternative plans to provide supplemental nutrition assistance to food banks and other food providers who were relying on these earlier TEFAP commodities? If so, what authorities does the Department plan to utilize?
2. Has USDA communicated with any producers or growers regarding the suspension or cancellation of commodity purchases through TEFAP? How will the Department work with these producers to ensure they face minimal economic harm?

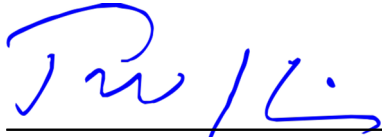
3. Has USDA communicated with any state distributing agencies, including the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), regarding the suspension or cancellation of food purchases and distributions through TEFAP? Is USDA working with the Commonwealth of Virginia and other states to ensure food banks and other food providers have adequate supplies of nutritious foods to serve their communities following the withdrawal of these funds?

Thank you for your attention to this letter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Jen A. Kiggans  
Member of Congress



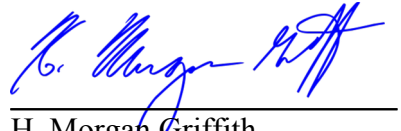
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



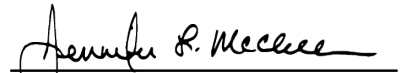
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



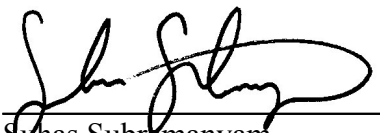
H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman  
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