

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 29, 2023

The Honorable James Risch Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Risch:

We write to respectfully request that you release the hold placed on the \$75 million in previously appropriated congressional funding in the FY2023 State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which is designated for the provision of food assistance to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza administered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

If these funds are not obligated shortly the UNRWA food pipeline could break and over a million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, including almost half a million children, could go hungry. This will create a humanitarian tragedy and poses a huge risk to regional security.

In Gaza, Palestinian refugees and vulnerable populations rely on food assistance from UNRWA or the World Food Programme (WFP). Despite this assistance, severe food insecurity continues to rise – now over 40% people in Gaza are severely food insecure.

Food insecurity in Gaza is already at a tipping point following the WFP's decision to reduce assistance from 300,000 Gazans down to 100,000 - necessitated by that agency's overall funding shortage.

Helping to assure the provision of food assistance to refugees in need is yet another reflection of American values as well as in diplomatic and security interests of the United States.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and hope you will act swiftly.



André Carson
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



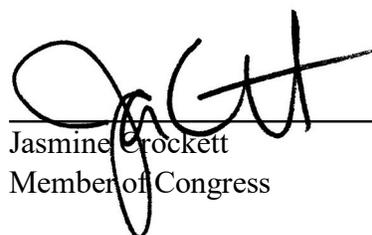
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress

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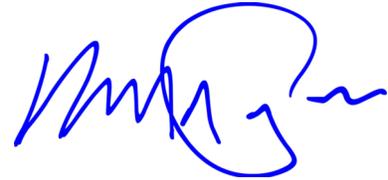
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



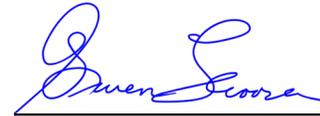
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

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Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



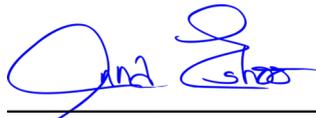
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



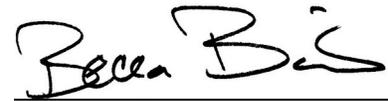
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

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Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



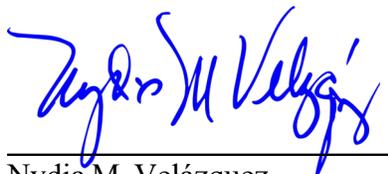
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
United States Senator

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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



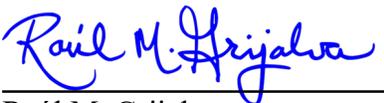
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



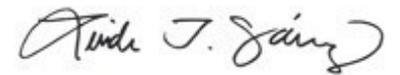
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

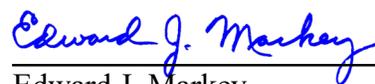


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Michael McCaul Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Antony Blinken Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520