



September 17, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20050

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Trump, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA), including Danone North America, Mars, Incorporated, Nestlé USA and Unilever United States, writes to urge your support for nutrition assistance programs in the upcoming continuing resolution (CR).

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and school meals programs have been lifelines for American families facing hunger and food insecurity during the coronavirus pandemic and help to stimulate local economies. As we have said in previous letters¹²³ on this topic, with millions of American families and children at risk for hunger and food insecurity⁴, Congress must take action now to forestall some of the worst economic and public health impacts of the pandemic by ensuring Americans have the resources to feed themselves and their families.

We are adding our voice to calls by the nation's leading hunger and feeding policy and relief organizations to include the following provisions in the CR:

- **Temporarily increasing SNAP benefits by 15 percent**, bound to economic indicators, to immediately increase access to food for millions of Americans and ease the pressure on feeding organizations. SFPA also supports temporarily increasing the monthly minimum SNAP benefit from \$16 to \$30.
- **Temporarily increasing the cash value benefit for fruits and vegetables in WIC to \$35 per month**, ensuring that nutritious and healthy food options are available to those who need them the most and addressing unmet need among vulnerable women and children.

¹ <https://foodpolicyalliance.org/app/uploads/2020/05/sfpa-covid-19-nutrition-programs-letter-final.pdf>

² <https://foodpolicyalliance.org/app/uploads/2020/08/07.31.20-wic-waivers-national-letter.pdf>

³ <https://foodpolicyalliance.org/app/uploads/2020/08/usda-letter-re-school-waivers-sfpa-1.pdf>

⁴ https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Not-Enough-to-Eat_Hunger-and-COVID.pdf



- **Helping critical populations of children** by increasing the WIC eligibility age from five to six and by extending eligibility certification for infants and postpartum women from 12 months to two years.
- **Extending all school meals waiver flexibilities through the end of the school year to June 30, 2021.** School nutrition operators and other feeding programs need both additional relief and flexibility to deliver nutrient-dense foods to school-aged children and their communities. While USDA has granted some waiver flexibilities through December 31, 2020, this does not fully address the needs of many school nutrition departments.
- **Extending the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program through June 30, 2021, the end of the 2020-2021 school year,** to increase the purchasing power of families. Without an extension to allow USDA the authority to give states the option to provide nutrition assistance to families whose children would be receiving subsidized school meals if their schools had been open, many families will lose this much-needed assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter, as well as your work to ensure healthy and strong American families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philippe Caradec".

Philippe Caradec
Vice President
Public and Government Affairs
Danone North America, PBC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad G. Figel".

Brad G. Figel
Vice President
Public Affairs North America
Mars, Incorporated

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Fogarty".

Molly Fogarty
Senior Vice President
Corporate & Government Affairs, U.S.
Nestlé USA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Langan".

Tom Langan
North America Director
Sustainable Business & External Affairs
Unilever

CC:

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable John Hoeven, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations



The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Pat Roberts, Chairman, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry Committee

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry Committee

The Honorable Collin Peterson, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Mike Conaway, Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee