



August 31, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Sent Via Facsimile to (202) 228-3954

Senator Feinstein,

We are writing to respectfully urge your strong support for full and adequate funding for several critical anti-hunger programs during upcoming conference committee negotiations regarding the Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As you know, earlier this month the Senate voted to pass its FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations spending bill, S. 1406. The House passed its version of the spending bill, H.R. 2997, on July 9th. It is our understanding that differences between the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations bills are in the process of being reconciled.

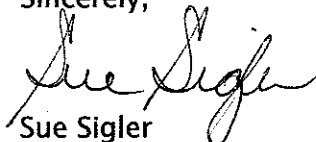
Food banks and other emergency food providers are facing unprecedented challenges, as many families are forced to seek food assistance for the very first time in light of the stalled economy. With these challenges in mind, we urge you to support and advocate on behalf of the following critical anti-hunger programs and initiatives during conference committee negotiations on the FY 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill:

- **TEFAP:** Maintain the \$253.3 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) commodity purchases and \$49.5 million for storage and distribution grants included in both bills. While we understand that both versions include identical amounts for storage and distribution, we continue to request full funding of \$100 million as authorized by the Farm Bill.
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):** Cede to the House funding level for CSFP. The House funded CSFP at \$180 million, of which \$5 million is designated to expand current 32-state CSFP program to six new states. The Senate funded CSFP at \$162.8 million, which will only maintain the program at current levels.
- **Infrastructure:** Advocate for the final bill to maintain the Senate funding level of \$7 million for Food Program Infrastructure Grants. The House funding level is only \$5 million. The Senate's higher funding level will assist

food banks and other emergency feeding organizations in their efforts to safely and quickly transport food, especially in rural areas.

Food banks and emergency feeding organizations across California and the country are at a critical crossroads as the ailing economy drives more people to seek food assistance. Providing full and adequate funding for federal nutrition programs is absolutely essential and we respectfully urge your strong support. On behalf of the California Association of Food Banks and the California Hunger Action Coalition, we thank you for your leadership on this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Sue Sigler
Executive Director
California Association of Food Banks



Betsy Edwards
Co-Chair
California Hunger Action Coalition

The California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) represents 44 community food banks working to build a well-nourished California.

CHAC is a broad-based membership organization of volunteers united in our belief that access to adequate, nutritious and safe food is a fundamental human right.