

BETTY SUTTON
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, OHIO

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AND HOMELAND SECURITY

ANTITRUST TASK FORCE

Congress of the United States
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June 10, 2008

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Homeland Security
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Homeland Security
1001 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Rogers:

We are writing to urge you to increase funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program from \$153 million in Fiscal Year 2008 to \$200 million for Fiscal Year 2009.

Congress created the EFS Program in 1983 to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States by allocating federal funds for the provision of food and shelter. Since its creation, the EFS Program has yielded substantial dividends, disbursing over \$3.1 billion to over 12,000 local providers in more than 2,500 counties and cities around the country.

As hardworking Americans face record high food inflation, skyrocketing fuel costs, and home foreclosures, many are forced to turn to food pantries, emergency shelters, and relief organizations to provide for their families.

Food costs jumped 5.3 percent in the first quarter this year, on top of a 4.9 percent increase in 2007, and estimates indicate that prices could rise as much as 9 percent a year through 2012. Over 35 million people—including 12.6 million children—live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. This represents more than one in ten households in the United States.

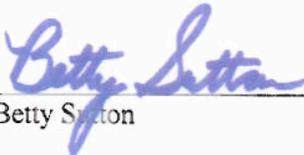
Simultaneously, many families are struggling to endure the mortgage foreclosure crisis. In 2007 over 1.5 million houses entered foreclosure and one in 33 homeowners is projected to be in foreclosure over the next two years, as a result of subprime loans made in 2006 and 2006.

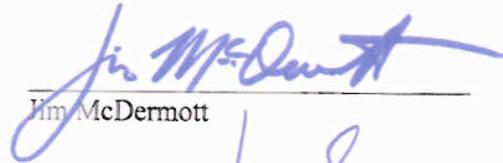
In addition, Americans are continuing to see the cost of gas rise at the rate of a penny a day, further pinching their pocketbooks as they face concerns about retaining their jobs in an uncertain economic climate. These factors have forced many to rely on the emergency assistance that national organizations such as the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army

and local organizations in all of our districts provide to families at risk of homelessness and hunger.

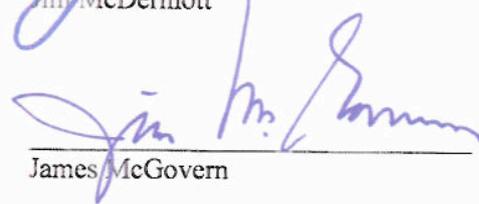
For the aforementioned reasons, we urge you to fund the EFS Program at \$200 million for Fiscal Year 2009 to provide a lifeline to so many families in need. Thank you for your consideration.

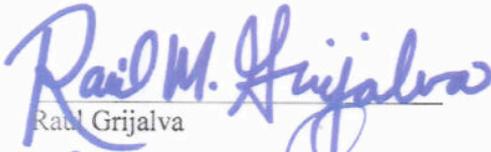
Sincerely,


Betty Sutton

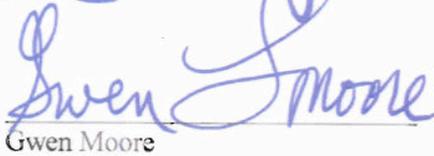

Jim McDermott

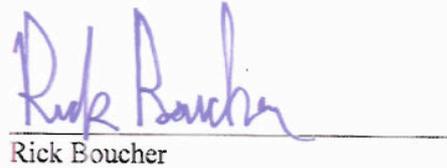

Dennis Moore

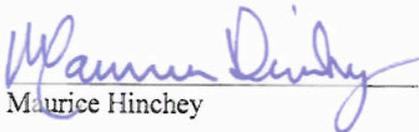

James McGovern


Raul Grijalva


Dale E. Kildee

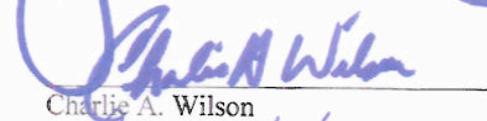

Gwen Moore

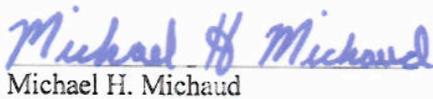

Rick Boucher

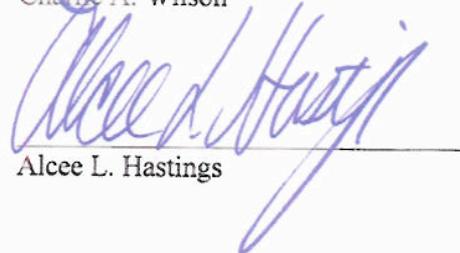

Maurice Hinchey


Jan Schakowsky


Bobby L. Rush


Charlie A. Wilson


Michael H. Michaud


Alcee L. Hastings

Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen

Sheila Jackson Lee
Sheila Jackson Lee

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Joe Sestak
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Dave Loebsack

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Pete Stark
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All Green

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Jackie Speier

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Tim Murphy

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