

MAYORS OF BATON ROUGE, BOSTON, DALLAS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GARY, HARTFORD, ITHACA, LOS ANGELES, MADISON, MEMPHIS, NEW YORK, PROVIDENCE, RALEIGH, SACRAMENTO, SALT LAKE CITY, SAN DIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO, SEATTLE, AND TUCSON

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry
SR-328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry
SR-328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Colin Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Lucas, and Ranking Member Peterson:

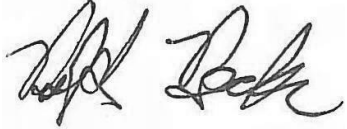
As mayors of major cities across the United States, we write to express our serious concerns about provisions under discussion in the Farm Bill reauthorization conference that could make it much more difficult for millions of Americans to put food on their tables. These provisions include billions of dollars in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We urge you to work to remove these cuts to a program that provides essential food support to low-income families and individuals across the country.

SNAP provides food support for approximately 47 million Americans, more than half of whom are children and seniors. As mayors, every day we see the importance of SNAP benefits and how they have helped millions of Americans to feed their families during an extended period of economic uncertainty and high unemployment. Although the economy is showing signs of recovery, unemployment rates are still above pre-recession levels and we are still faced with rates above the national average in many cities across the country.

In addition, since every dollar in SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.80 in local economic activity, cuts will also have a negative impact on our urban economies.

At this critical juncture in our recovery, we urge you eliminate changes to the SNAP program that will reduce a support as basic as food to so many struggling Americans and could undermine our local economies.

Sincerely,



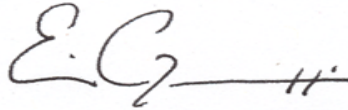
Ralph Becker
Mayor
Salt Lake City



Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City of New York



Karen Freeman-Wilson
Mayor
City of Gary



Eric Garcetti
Mayor
City of Los Angeles



Todd Gloria
Interim Mayor
City of San Diego



Vincent Gray
Mayor
District of Columbia



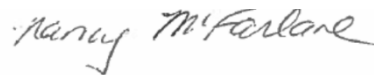
Melvin L. "Kip" Holden
Mayor
City of Baton Rouge



Kevin Johnson
Mayor
City of Sacramento



Edwin M. Lee
Mayor
City of San Francisco



Nancy McFarlane
Mayor
City of Raleigh



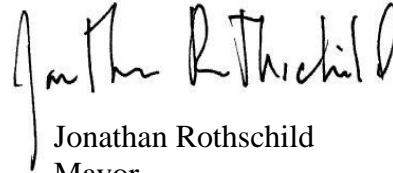
Ed Murray
Mayor
City of Seattle



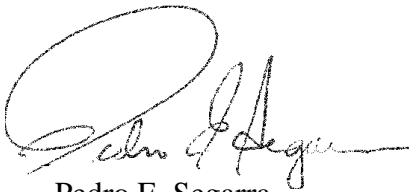
Svante L. Myrick
Mayor
City of Ithaca



Mike Rawlings
Mayor
City of Dallas



Jonathan Rothschild
Mayor
City of Tucson



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor
City of Hartford



Paul R. Soglin
Mayor
City of Madison



Angel Taveras
Mayor
City of Providence



Martin J. Walsh
Mayor
City of Boston



A C Wharton, Jr.
Mayor
City of Memphis

c.c. 2013 Farm Bill Conferees