



November 19, 2014

The Honorable Ed Royce
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
B-360 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Smith
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Karen Bass
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Royce, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Engel, Ranking Member Bass, and Congresswoman McCollum:

I write as President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and former Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (1981-1987) with enthusiastic support for authorizing Feed the Future. Authorizing Feed the Future in a bipartisan fashion will not only appropriately allow Congress to set important priorities for the initiative, it will also send a critical message about the United States' commitment to our global partners and food security.

As you know, Feed the Future is our country's comprehensive all-of-government approach to tackling global hunger. Through partnerships across many sectors, including higher education, Feed the Future is making a significant difference in strengthening food systems, alleviating hunger, and building potential for economic growth.

I am particularly proud of Feed the Future's partnership with U.S. universities. By harnessing the unparalleled resources of institutions of higher education in agricultural research, Feed the Future is grounded in science. Researchers at more than 60 universities throughout the United States are collaborating to tackle the world's greatest development challenges through the Feed the Future Innovation Laboratories. The United States Agency for International Development has significantly increased its engagement with researchers at U.S. universities and that engagement is paying dividends in increased agricultural efficiencies in whole food systems with less of an environmental footprint.

Additionally, U.S. universities are actively working with universities in developing nations to help build their capacities to be the kinds of institutions that can make a transformative impact on their society as our universities have done for us. For example, the partnership between the Ohio State University and Tanzania's Sokoine University of Agriculture is transforming Sokoine into

an institution that produces graduates who will have the skills to meet private and public sector needs in food systems. We need more partnerships of this kind within Feed the Future. Not only do these partnerships benefit developing nations, they also enhance the research impact of our nation's universities domestically, provide important global learning opportunities for U.S. students, and build lasting and important connections with the future leaders of developing countries.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance as you consider legislation to authorize Feed the Future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McPherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

President
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

CC: House Foreign Affairs Committee Members