



April 29, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Capitol H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
The Capitol H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader
The Capitol H-107
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Minority Whip
The Capitol H-148
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Whip Hoyer,

As the President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and former Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), I thank you for your leadership and hard work in passing H.R. 1567, the Global Food Security Act (GFSA).

As you may be aware, APLU has proudly endorsed both H.R. 1567 and S. 1252, the Senate version of GFSA. We appreciate that both bills, throughout the legislative process, have been strengthened to include the role of universities in building capacity and addressing the world's greatest food security challenges through scientific research. For example, we appreciate that both bills directly reference the critical work of the Feed the Future Innovation Labs.

I know you are actively engaged in discussions about how to advance the Global Food Security Act to the President's desk. I want to share APLU's appreciation, support, and position as the process moves forward. APLU supports the language in the Senate bill relative to partnerships between U.S. universities and higher education institutions in developing nations, as it is stronger than what is included in the House bill. The Senate language (below), Section 5, Paragraph 14, reflects what is needed to ensure an appropriate focus on higher education capacity building within the global food security strategy; the House language on university partnerships is not as strong.

Strengthen and expand collaboration between United States universities, including public, private, and land-grant universities, with higher education institutions in target countries to increase their effectiveness and relevance to promote agricultural development and innovation through the creation of human capital, innovation and cutting edge science in the agriculture sector.

U.S. public universities are committed to and actively engaged in efforts to combat global food insecurity. However, we know the challenges are great and the effort requires strong leadership from the entire U.S. government, particularly USAID, in partnership with universities, governments, businesses, nongovernmental and civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, and farmers.

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is North America's oldest higher education association with member institutions in all 50 U.S. states including 208 campuses and 24 public university systems. Annually, APLU member campuses enroll 4.7 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, employ 1.4 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$42.7 billion in university-based research.

U.S. universities are also actively engaged in helping to build the human capacities of developing nations in research, training and education as well as developing the capacity of institutions. In my view, the U.S. government needs to significantly expand its efforts to build the higher education capacities of developing nations which will provide the human capital to sustain the U.S. assistance effort in those countries. U.S. universities are natural partners in this endeavor and the provision in the Senate bill will help achieve this goal.

As the process moves forward, please do not hesitate to let me know how APLU can help or if you have any questions. I look forward to continuing to work with you towards enactment of the Global Food Security Act.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being more prominent.

Peter McPherson
President,
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

cc: House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Edward R. Royce
House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Eliot L. Engel
The Honorable Christopher Smith
The Honorable Betty McCollum