



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

FEB 19 2010

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested in the Conference Report accompanying the Agriculture Appropriations Act, 2010, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is providing initial information on micronutrient fortification pilot projects in the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program. The Act provides \$10 million to fund these pilot projects.

In implementing these pilot projects, FAS will consider products that meet the micronutrient needs of a variety of program beneficiaries, transport well, and have a good shelf life. The \$10 million in funding will be used to develop, monitor, and evaluate the new products. The purchase and shipping of the products will be covered by the remaining part of the appropriation (\$199.5 million) for the McGovern-Dole program.

FAS expects funding for the pilot to be obligated in fiscal year (FY) 2010, but implementation will likely take up to three years to complete. The actual field-testing of the products will not occur in most cases until FY 2011, with the evaluation stage lasting until FY 2012. FAS is currently drafting a Federal Register notice to solicit proposals for the projects and will provide copies to members of the Subcommittee as soon as it is released. In selecting pilot implementers, FAS will give preference to those nongovernmental organizations and international agencies proposing to field-test products in conjunction with current McGovern-Dole programs. The private sector will be encouraged to collaborate with these organizations in product development.

The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area has also received \$4 million to conduct research on the fortification of micronutrients for food aid. FAS and REE will be collaborating on the initiatives.

The Honorable Herb Kohl

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We look forward to providing further details on the implementation of the pilot project in our semi-annual report this coming July. Thank you for your interest in helping USDA to improve the McGovern-Dole program.

Similar letters have been sent to Senator Brownback, Congresswoman DeLauro, and Congressman Kingston.

Sincerely,

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary



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Washington, D.C. 20250

FEB 19 2010

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brownback:

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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

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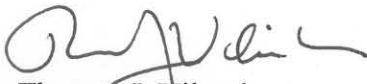
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The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kingston:

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