

April 3, 2008

TO: Anti-Hunger Allies

FR: Food Research and Action Center

A good Farm Bill nutrition title is still in the works, and there is still important work to do!

The current Farm Bill expires on Friday, April 18th, and if a new bill isn't finished Congress is likely to revert to existing law. We have gained too much in the House and Senate bills to accept this outcome. Your help is needed now to finish this bill and secure needed funding for the Food Stamp Program and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

Action Needed:

1. Email this message to your Members of Congress and staff with this link to the [national, state and local organization sign on letter](#) urging adoption of a Farm Bill with a strong nutrition title. For staff contact information for many committees, [click here](#), for others contact eteller@frac.org or emelcher@frac.org.
2. Get your staff, board and network to call your Members of Congress (Senators and Representatives) toll-free at **1-800-826-9624** and tell them that Congress must finish the job now of enacting a Farm Bill (H.R. 2419) with a strong nutrition title. The House-passed bill contains \$11.5 billion in new ten-year funding for the nutrition title. The toll-free number is made available by AARP and connects to the U.S. Capitol switchboard. Share the toll-free number with your allies.

What is at Stake: More than 35.5 million people in the U.S. live in households that face a constant struggle against hunger. Food stamp benefits average a mere \$1 a person a meal; the minimum monthly food stamp benefit has been stuck at \$10 for three decades. Food stamp household asset limits have been frozen for decades. Many food bank shelves are empty.

The \$11.5 billion in new ten year spending for the nutrition title that the House approved is critical to fund improvements in food stamp benefits, food stamp access, and increased TEFAP commodity purchases, especially at this time of growing need and rapidly rising food prices.

Feedback and Technical Assistance: For feedback, suggestions and/or technical assistance on the Farm Bill, contact Ellen Vollinger, evollinger@frac.org or Ellen Teller, eteller@frac.org.