

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 19, 2004

The Honorable Robert Zoellick
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Ambassador Zoellick:

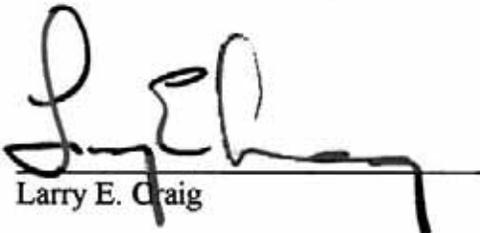
This year marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Food for Peace (P.L. 480) program. Food for Peace and other U.S. food aid programs have reached nearly a billion people around the world, alleviating hunger and promoting economic development and security. Given the proven success and effectiveness of U.S. food assistance programs, we oppose proposals being considered in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round negotiations that would limit the use of in-kind food aid for humanitarian and developmental programs.

Our food aid programs represent and appeal to the generosity of the American people. Additionally, these programs have strong support within the U.S. agriculture industry that provides high-quality, highly nutritious products to impoverished nations. As such, they have enjoyed sustained bipartisan and broad public support. Americans reaching out to those in need is our nation's most powerful symbol of democracy and freedom.

Proposals calling for the provision of cash donations instead of in-kind food aid are misguided. Past experience proves that corruption and lack of transparency can lead to significant portions of cash donations disappearing into the pockets of foreign government officials, rather than being used to procure the goods and services needed. Furthermore, recipient governments may not be able to source or transport adequate supplies of regionally produced food to fill the need in a timely manner.

U.S. food aid programs are more than just the provision of commodities - they are linked to projects that improve health, living conditions and income. The P.L. 480 program and other U.S. food assistance programs are efficient and transparent mechanisms to help the world's neediest regions progress from food insecurity to sustainable development. In-kind contributions maintain widespread support in the United States as the world's largest donor of food assistance. Any outcome of the Doha negotiations that undermines these essential programs is unacceptable.

Sincerely,



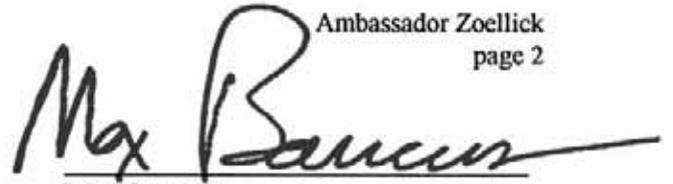
Larry E. Craig



Byron Dorgan

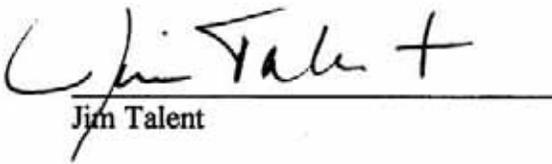


Pat Roberts



Max Baucus

Ambassador Zoellick
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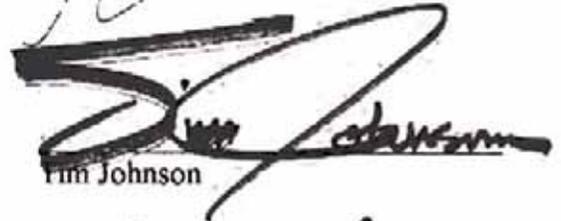
Jim Talent



Tom Daschle



Ron Wyden



Tim Johnson



Conrad Burns

