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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEE
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN

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June 18, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

As members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, we believe that a strong nation begins with strong farms, and work in a bipartisan manner to uphold support for our farmers and food system in every community.

In that spirit, we write to you today with both urgency and hope. The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA25) has become a vital lifeline—supporting family farms while connecting locally grown food to communities in need. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s sudden and unjustified decision to cut funding for this program not only jeopardizes food access, but also undermines the farmers who are the foundation of our food system and work tirelessly to keep America fed.

For years, the Pennsylvania General Assembly and our Members of Congress have worked together to strengthen our agricultural sector—a partnership rooted in trust, shared priorities, and coordination across all levels of government. That collaboration has been key to ensuring our farmers and agribusinesses have the resources, stability, and support needed to grow and succeed.

The USDA’s abrupt cancellation of Pennsylvania’s LFPA25 contract, made without adequate consultation or explanation, directly threatens that partnership. We are deeply troubled that more than \$13 million in committed funding was rescinded with no warning—disrupting market opportunities for nearly 190 Pennsylvania farmers and hampering the ability of food banks to deliver fresh, healthy, locally sourced food to vulnerable populations.

Under the leadership of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Commonwealth has successfully implemented two previous rounds of the LFPA program, totaling nearly \$30 million. The program has delivered measurable impact across the Commonwealth, supporting farmers in the dairy, produce, poultry, and other sectors. Its abrupt elimination has raised serious concerns among producers who were counting on continued support. Through strategic investments from the LFPA program, food banks were able to distribute fresh, locally sourced food—creating a win-win for both Pennsylvania agriculture and food security.

We also want to emphasize that LFPA directly supports several key goals outlined by the Trump administration’s “Farmers First” agenda—goals we, as state lawmakers, strongly share. The program creates meaningful market opportunities for small and mid-sized farms, while increasing access to healthy, unprocessed or minimally processed foods for consumers. Every product purchased under LFPA was sourced directly from Pennsylvania farmers, ensuring that the economic and nutritional impact stays local.

Given the administration’s stated commitment to supporting small farmers and improving public health through better nutrition, we believe the LFPA program clearly aligns with national priorities and should be continued.

As stewards of taxpayer resources—and, just as importantly, as stewards of the public trust—we fully recognize the responsibility to evaluate programs for both effectiveness and fiscal integrity. However, when a government enters into a contract, it has an obligation to honor that agreement. Pennsylvania has upheld its end of the LFPA contract, consistently following program guidelines and seeking reimbursements from the USDA for eligible costs.

At the same time, food banks across the Commonwealth have entered into agreements with farmers to ensure a reliable supply of fresh, local products for the charitable food system. The abrupt cancellation of this program has not only undermined trust in the federal-state partnership, but it has also caused real and unnecessary uncertainty for farmers—many of whom had already planned their growing seasons and business operations around this contract.

Your leadership in championing this issue with your partners in the administration is critical. Meaningful change in our communities requires collaboration across all levels of government, and your voice can make a real difference. As fellow elected officials, we know you understand the challenges of advocating for the needs of our constituents—especially when critical programs are at risk.

We respectfully urge Congress to do the following key actions to protect and strengthen the LFPA program:

- 1) Urge the USDA to reconsider its decision and uphold its commitment to Pennsylvania farmers for \$13 million in funding.
- 2) Absent of USDA action, work on restoring funding to this program in the appropriations process moving through Congress.

Our farmers are ready and willing to do what they do best—feed their communities. LFPA played a critical role in enabling them to do so, while also helping food banks provide fresh, healthy, locally grown products to those who need them most.

Now more than ever, collaboration across all levels of government is essential. Reinstating this funding—or identifying a viable alternative—must be a shared priority. Our farmers, food producers, and vulnerable families deserve a coordinated response that safeguards the stability, resilience, and continued growth of Pennsylvania agriculture—our Commonwealth’s leading industry. We remain committed to working with you to build a stronger, more resilient food system for all Pennsylvanians.



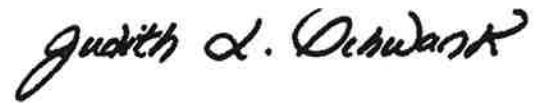
Rep. Dan Moul
House Minority Chair
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee



Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski
House Majority Chair
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee



Sen. Elder Vogel, Jr.
Senate Majority Chair
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee



Sen. Judy Schwank
Senate Minority Chair
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee