

TO: Office of the President-Elect, Joseph R. Biden Jr.
CC: Biden-Harris Transition Team
DATE: November 23, 2020
RE: Nomination of Rep. Marcia Fudge as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

We recommend the nomination of Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH) to the position of United States Secretary of Agriculture. We are a wide cross-section of food banks, hunger relief and anti-poverty organizations who have witnessed Rep. Fudge's leadership on public nutrition programs, support for farmworkers and the root causes of hunger. Some of her accomplishments include:

- Serving as the first African-American and female mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio — and, since 2008, as the Congressional representative of most of the majority-black precincts of Cleveland and part of Akron, and as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 113th Congress. Presently, Rep. Fudge is also the Chair of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations and has used this position to advocate for programs to address food insecurity and address the root causes of hunger.
- Leading as one of the foremost advocates in Congress for public nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). As chair of the House Agriculture subcommittee on nutrition, she called hearings last summer into shortcomings in the Trump administration's food-box giveaway program. Her championship of SNAP--a program that has kept millions of people out of food insecurity and a critical component of our federal safety net for low-income Americans--is unparalleled and demonstrates a deep understanding of community needs.
- Co-leading advocacy for The Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act earlier this year to allow all children to access breakfast, lunch, and after-school snack programs either in school or through "grab and go" and delivery options--an especially critical option as communities continue to wrestle with closed schools during COVID-19.
- Winning approval of Ohio's request to enable SNAP recipients across the state to utilize SNAP EBT cards to purchase groceries online at authorized online retailers.
- Co-introducing legislation to help streamline the donation of food by farmers to food banks across the country to help confront the growing food insecurity related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Farm to Food Bank Enhancement Act would provide \$25 million for states to expand or establish new Farm to Food Bank Projects as part of The Emergency Food Assistance Program, or TEFAP. The federal funding will be used to cover up to 100 percent of harvesting, processing, packaging, and transportation costs for covered commodities.

(continued)

As advocates who work with people experiencing the increased food insecurity that COVID-19 and related economic impacts have brought to communities across the United States, **we back the compassionate leadership of Rep. Fudge and believe that she would make essential contributions to the Biden-Harris Administration on these issues.**

We appreciate your consideration of Rep. Fudge and stand ready to support her nomination through the confirmation process.

Signed,

Karen Belcher
Executive Director
Food Bank of Central New York

Colleen Benson
Director, Strategic Development
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

Bart Brown
CEO
Ozarks Food Harvest

Lorianne Burhop
Chief Policy Officer
Montana Food Bank Network

James M. Caldwell
President & CEO
Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank

John R. Corlett
President
The Center for Community Solutions

Lynne Curry
Chair
Slow Food Wallowas

Randi Dresner
President & CEO
Island Harvest Food Bank

Danny Faccinetti
Director of Operations
Oregon Food Bank

David Goodman
CEO
Redwood Empire Food Bank

Leslie Gordon
CEO
Food Bank for New York City

Bob Gorman
Nutrition Supervisor
Parma City Schools

Brian Greene
President & CEO
Houston Food Bank

Michael J. Halligan
CEO
God's Pantry Food Bank, Inc

Maia Hardy
Program Manager
Ecotrust*

Tommie Harner
CEO
West Ohio Food Bank

Kelly Hatas
Executive Director
Hocking Athens Perry Community
Action/Southeast Ohio Foodbank & Kitchen

Anna Hipsman Springer
President, Board of Directors
Oregon Farmers Markets Association

Megan Horst
Professor
Portland State University*

Michael Iberis
Executive Director
Second Harvest Food Bank of
The Mahoning Valley

Natalie Jayroe
President & CEO
Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater
New Orleans and Acadiana

Dr. Ruth Jones Nichols
President & CEO
Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia

Cynthia Kirkhart
Chief Executive Officer
Facing Hunger Food Bank*

Dave Krepcho
President & CEO
Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida

Adam LaRose
Director of Advocacy & Public Policy
Capital Area Food Bank

Miriam Latzer
Learning Garden Coordinator
AFT Local 3922*

Nancy S. Levin
Director
Cleveland Heights-University Heights
Public Library*

Kate Maehr
CEO
Greater Chicago Food Depository

Michael McDonald
CEO
Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

Kristen Miale
President
Good Shepherd Food Bank

Earline E. Middleton
Vice President, Partner Services & Public Policy
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

Sophie Milam
Senior Director of Public Policy
Greater Chicago Food Depository

Susannah Morgan
CEO
Oregon Food Bank

Martha Munoz
Volunteer Organizer
Oregon Food Bank

Linda Nageotte
President & CEO
Food Lifeline

Joree Novotny
Director of External Affairs
Ohio Association of Foodbanks

Scott Neely
Director Government Affairs
Children's Hunger Alliance

Carolina Negrón
Metro Services Leader
Oregon Food Bank

Korey Patty
Executive Director
Feeding Louisiana

Terry Perdue
Executive Director
Shared Harvest Foodbank, Inc.

Shane Piccinini
Government Relations
Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Lauren Picone
Government Affairs Manager
FeedMore WNY

Amy Powers
Metro & Washington County Services Manager
Oregon Food Bank

Kurt L. Reiber
President & CEO
Freestore Foodbank

Michelle Riley
CEO
The Foodbank, Inc.

Lisa Scales
President & CEO
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Andrew Schiff
CEO
Rhode Island Community Food Bank*

Shari Sirkin
Executive Director
Friends of Family Farmers

Jason Skipton
Executive Director
Growing Gardens

Eileen Spring
President & CEO
Food Gatherers

Jessika Tantisook
Executive Director
North Coast Food Web*

Julia Tedesco
President & CEO
Foodlink

Natasha Thompson
President & CEO
Food Bank of the Southern Tier

Sharon Thornberry
Manager
Columbia Gorge Food Bank

Marilyn Tomasi
SVP Marketing & Public Affairs
Mid-Ohio Food Collective

Jodi Tyson
Vice President
Three Square Food Bank

Karen Vauk
President & CEO
The Idaho Foodbank

Suzan Walkup Bateson
Executive Director
Alameda County Community Food Bank

Kristin Warzocha
President & CEO
Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Taylor West
Just Food System Advocate
Community Food Systems*

Monica White
President & CEO
Food Share of Ventura County

Zack Wilson
Executive Director
High Plains Food Bank

Christina Wong
Director of Public Policy & Advocacy
Northwest Harvest

Scott Young
Executive Director
Food Bank of Lincoln

**For identification purposes*