

May 25, 2023

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug and Related  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Heinrich and Ranking Member Hoeven,

We write to you today to urge you to include full and adequate funding for the U.S. Codex Office (USCO) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bill. As a representative of the U.S. food and agriculture sector, the USCO plays an instrumental role in advocating and developing science and risk-based food standards on behalf of farmers, ranchers, and the food industry to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade worldwide.

The USCO has a valued voice in various multilateral institutions, including the World Trade Organization, Codex Alimentarius Commission among others. At a time when global food security and our global food system remain a top priority, it is imperative the U.S. prioritize all tools necessary to promote transparency and science at an international level, including the USCO.

A lack of financial support for the USCO would hamper our nation's ability to engage on critical multilateral issues that affect all Americans as well as the greater global population. Therefore, it is imperative the USCO receives full and adequate funding for FY 2024.

Specifically, we urge your subcommittee to set funding levels in line with, or above, FY 2023 levels at \$4.8 million. This funding would account for USCO's core functions that are mission critical to U.S. trade and global competitiveness, including day-to-day operations, written submissions, routine meetings, and other activities.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for supporting the USCO and other critical U.S. government agencies.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Soybean Association

Animal Health Institute  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Calorie Control Council  
Consumer Brands Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Council for Responsible Nutrition  
CropLife America  
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.  
Fisheries Institute  
Flavor & Extract Manufacturers Association  
Food and Agriculture Export Alliance  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
Independent Bakers Association  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Food Additives Council  
International Fresh Produce Association  
Meat Import Council of America  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Confectioners Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Turkey Federation  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Refrigerated Foods Association  
SNAC International  
Sweetener Users Association  
United States Peanut Federation  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
USA Poultry & Egg Export Council  
USA Rice  
Wine Institute

Cc: The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations