

KEEP FOOD FOR PEACE AN ALL-AMERICAN BI-PARTISAN PROGRAM
COSPONSOR AND SUPPORT HR 4293
AMERICAN FARMERS FEED THE WORLD ACT OF 2023

- Reauthorized in the Trade Title of the Farm Bill, “Food for Peace” is America’s flagship international food aid program for donating wholesome US-grown commodities to those in need.
- The Food for Peace program has fed over 3 billion people in more than 150 countries since 1954 and helps millions avoid famine.
- Food for Peace is a key tool in countering China’s growing influence in non-aligned countries today, as it was a key tool in fighting Russia during the Cold War.

Cash is not King: Support Reliable American-Grown Commodities

- USAID continually pushes to convert Food for Peace to a program that gives out cash and vouchers, sometimes called “market-based assistance,” instead of shipping American commodities from the heartland to those in need overseas in US-flag ships. As a result, US commodity shipments are now just a third of international food assistance and just a third of the Food for Peace budget.
- Handing out cash in developing countries—instead of home-grown American commodities—presents serious monitoring challenges, fueling corruption and wasting scarce resources. Moreover, handing out cash means more dollars chasing the same scarce food supply in famine areas, spiking local food prices and widening famine.
- On the other hand, sending American commodities introduces food to famine areas, opens up new markets for American commodities abroad, and stimulates jobs for farmers, millers, dock workers, and American mariners here at home. These stakeholders have been the bedrock of bipartisan support for Food for Peace for over 70 years. *Switching to cash risks that support.*
- *The American Farmers Feed the World Act of 2023 would restore Food for Peace’s original intent of donating American commodities to those in need overseas on US-flag ships, instead of handing out cash in conflict zones or buying commodities from our competitors—FEEDING MILLIONS MORE AT NO COST TO THE U.S. TAXPAYER.*

Ship-American “Cargo Preference” Supports Food for Peace and Essential American Sealift Capability

- Ship-American “cargo preference” requires at least 50% of all taxpayer-funded cargoes be shipped on US-flag American vessels crewed by American mariners—rather than on merchant marine fleets controlled by foreign powers and interests, and loyal to foreign governments. *The American Farmers Feed the World Act* would ensure US-flag ships get no less than the minimum 50% of these cargoes required by law.
- America depends upon these commercially operated US flag ships for sealift in times of war and national emergency. Over 90% of the sealift capacity for Iraq and Afghanistan was supplied by our US-flag Merchant Marine crewed by civilian U.S. citizen merchant mariners.
- According to the U.S. Transportation Command and the U.S. Maritime Administration, food aid cargoes are essential to maintaining the commercial U.S. Merchant Marine that is necessary to provide the Department of Defense with the commercial sealift readiness capability it needs. It would cost American taxpayers \$65 billion to replicate the sealift capacity provided by our US-flag Merchant Marine. Employing American mariners sailing under the US flag—as opposed to Chinese and other foreign mariners— costs less than 1% of the Food for Peace budget.
- *Supporting the American farm and agricultural community by restoring the role of American commodities in Food for Peace provides essential cargoes to US-flag vessels and jobs for American mariners.*

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- **BUY AMERICAN COMMODITIES, SHIP ON AMERICAN SHIPS.** For more information or to cosponsor please email: Riley Pagett in Rep. Tracey Mann's office at riley.pagett@mail.house.gov, Iain Hart in Rep. Garamendi's office at iain.hart@mail.house.gov, Adam Battalio in Sen. Braun's office at adam_battalio@braun.senate.gov, or Justin Folsom in Senator Tester's office at justin_folsom@tester.senate.gov.