

Email Templates

For Farmers Directly Impacted

(NOTE: If you have an existing relationship with a Hill staffer, we encourage you to send this email directly to them. It's important to include as many additional details as you can, as personalized emails have a greater impact.)

Hello, my name is [your name], and I am a farmer in [your state – or the MoC's specific district if you do work there]. I am a [farmer/rancher/producer] and a recipient of [insert USDA program name(s)]. All federal agencies, including USDA, are under two court orders requiring the release of lawfully obligated funds under lawfully contracted and signed agreements.

However, [we are still unable to receive funds AND/OR we received a cancellation notice from USDA Program Name AND/OR we cannot get clear guidance from our USDA agency contacts regarding whether and when we might receive funds that are due to us]. This abrupt and unilaterally illegal decision is causing immediate harm to my business and the community that we serve in [your town, district, state, or region].

As our [Senator/Representative for your state], we are counting on you to swiftly mitigate further harm. We need you to exercise your Congressional oversight duty and demand that USDA Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins:

- Immediately lift all funding freezes as ordered by the US District Courts on January 31 and February 3, honor all existing contractual agreements, and issue due payments and reimbursements. [Add specific examples here if you can]
- Halt and reverse indiscriminate firings of USDA staff. These actions have impacted our [state/district] by further reducing the USDA's already-understaffed capacity, while will result in poor customer service for farmers and worsen the existing backlog of applications for programs. [Add specific examples here if you can]

I would like to request a follow-up response from the office about how the [USDA agency or office that administers the program you participate in] intends to comply with the law and ensure farmers and organizations with active signed agreements may continue undertaking critical work in our community in accordance with our contracts. It is urgent, and I will be considering all of this in the next election. If there's any additional information or testimony we can provide to help you submit your inquiry to USDA, please let us know as we are eager to work with your office to remedy this situation.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing back from you,

[your name]

For Organizations Directly Impacted

(If you have an existing relationship with a Hill staffer, we encourage you to send this email directly to them. It's important to include as many additional details as you can, personalized emails have a greater impact. If you have ALREADY sent an email like this to your Hill contacts, this is a good time to circle back with an update to tell them if you still have frozen funding and any other updates.)

Hello, my name is [your name], and I work in [your state – or the MoC's specific district if you do work there]. I am a [insert your connection to the food system] and a recipient of [insert USDA program name(s)]. USDA and all federal agencies are under two court orders requiring the release of lawfully obligated funds under lawfully contracted and signed agreements.

However, [We are still unable to receive funds AND/OR we received a cancellation notice from USDA Program Name AND/OR we cannot get clear guidance from our USDA agency contacts regarding whether and when we might receive funds that are due to us]. This situation causes immediate harm to my organization and the community of your constituents that we serve [if you are providing food-assistance to low income or food-insecure households and communities, say so here!].

As our [Senator/Representative for your state], we are counting on you to swiftly mitigate further harm. We need you to exercise your Congressional oversight duty and work with USDA Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins to ensure that:

- All funding freezes are immediately lifted as ordered by the US District Courts on January 31 and February 3. USDA must honor all existing contractual agreements, and issue due payments and reimbursements. [Add specific examples here if you can]
- Indiscriminate firings of USDA staff are halted and reversed. These actions have impacted our [state/district] by further reducing the USDA's already-understaffed capacity, which will result in poor customer service for farmers and worsen the existing backlog of applications for programs. [Add specific examples here if you can]

I would like to request a follow-up response from your office about how the [USDA agency or office that administers the program you participate in] intends to comply with the law and ensure farmers and organizations with active signed agreements may continue undertaking critical work in our community in accordance with our contracts. If there's any additional information or testimony we can provide to help you submit your inquiry to USDA, please let us know as we are eager to work with your office to remedy this situation.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing back from you,

[your name]

For all others in our network

Hello, my name is [your name], and I live and work in [your state – or the MoC's specific district if you live there]. As a community member who depends on our local farmers, I am deeply concerned about how the recent Executive Orders that have frozen USDA program funding and suspended contracts with producers and grants to local food non-profits are harming all of us. Despite multiple court orders, I am still hearing from trusted members of our community that funding from contracts is inaccessible, delayed, or even withdrawn completely.

[Elaborate with examples if you can – personalized emails have a greater impact. For example, if you have benefited from local food programs or food assistance that is now interrupted or at risk, tell your story]

We need you to stand up for your constituents! We elected you to represent us and advocate in our best interest, and you have the power to prevent future harm by ordering USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins to lift the federal funding freeze now, honor all contractual agreements, and halt and reverse indiscriminate firings.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[your name]