

May 25, 2023

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

Cc: Chair Patty Murray, Vice Chair Susan Collins

Dear Chairman Heinrich and Ranking Member Hoeven,

We write to you today to urge you to include adequate funding for the U.S. Codex Office (USCO) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Agriculture-FDA 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 consumers 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 countless 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 food 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, routine meetings, and other activities.

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

Sincerely,

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