



February 5, 2014

President Barack Obama  
White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of our 8,000 members and the kids and families of Washington state, we are writing to respectfully request that you veto the Farm Bill, H.R. 2642, passed yesterday by the U.S. Senate and last week by the House.

An estimated 232,000 households in Washington will see cuts in monthly benefits of up to \$90 over the next months as the Nutrition Title change to the "heat and eat" option is implemented. Washington is one of the states which provided households eligible for SNAP (called Basic Food here in Washington) with a small LIHEAP benefit in order to both streamline program administration and provide added benefits to some households. This was not a "gimmick" or a "loophole," it was a successful effort in tough times (beginning in 2009) when the state budget was cutting local office staff, and families were hurting.

Our Department of Social and Health Services estimates that the Farm Bill policy change will mean a loss of \$70 million in local grocery store buying power. Using the USDA benefit multiplier, the total negative economic impact to our state will be over \$129 million due to this policy change.

Please veto this bill on behalf of the millions of children and families who rely on food assistance to put food on the table.

Sincerely,

Jon Gould  
Deputy Director