April 28, 2022

Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
2413 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1026 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Food Bank of Iowa Warehouse Expansion for a Hunger Free Iowa in fiscal year 2023. They are requesting $1,500,000 in funding.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Food Bank of Iowa, located at 2220 E 17th St, Des Moines, IA 50316.

The Food Bank of Iowa (FBOI) is seeking funding to add 30,000 square feet to its existing warehouse in Des Moines. This $10.2 million capital project will position FBOI to expand programming to improve overall nutrition for food-insecure Iowans, increase access to food assistance for children, and meet the needs of special populations who face significant barriers to food security. The increased capacity will also support our maturing understanding of what food assistance goals should look like – not as the absence of hunger but the presence of nutrition – necessitating an increasing shift from shelf-stable processed foods toward wholesome fresh foods. FBOI is currently operating over capacity, using external storage to meet community needs. FBOI's biggest obstacle to delivering food assistance is not trouble finding enough food, but having the internal capacity to manage, store, and deliver it. FBOI requests $1.5 million in Community Project funding to support this effort that serves low-income families across 10 of 16 counties in current IA-03.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress IA-03