

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0305

August 30, 2022

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The emerging global food crisis demands action from the United States and our global trading partners. Soaring food prices are driving millions into poverty around the world. While much of the global crisis is outside the direct control of the United States since food and fertilizer are traded on a global market, the Biden Administration's war on domestic energy production and other radical environmental policies have contributed to rising prices of these commodities.

According to World Bank data, "92.9% of low-income, 92.7% of lower-middle-income, and 89% of upper-middle-income have seen inflation levels above 5%, with many experiencing double-digit inflation."¹ Consumers in the United States are being hammered by rising food prices. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, "In 2022, food price increases are expected to be above the increases for 2020 and 2021. In 2022, food-at home prices are predicted to increase between 10.0 and 11.0 percent, and food-away-from-home prices are predicted to increase between 6.5 and 7.5 percent."²

While we appreciate that some relief may be on the way, contingent on Ukraine's ability to export grain, we believe that steps must be taken by the United States to increase supply and to ensure that global markets are functioning effectively.

Please provide answers to the following questions by September 16, 2022:

1. What steps is the Department of Interior taking on federal lands to provide relief for domestic agriculture producers by reducing the cost of agriculture inputs?
2. What steps is the Department of Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, taking to ensure that domestic agricultural producers continue to have access to critical water supplies, such as the Colorado River?

¹The World Bank, Food Security Update (August 15, 2022)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update>

² U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Food Price Outlook 2022 (July 25, 2022)

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings/>

3. What steps is the Department of Interior taking to reverse policies that inhibit or delay the production of domestic energy, especially natural gas?
4. What steps are being taken to increase domestic production of critical minerals used in fertilizer?
5. What steps are being taken to locate and map domestic deposits of fertilizer inputs like potash and phosphate?
6. Why were potash and phosphate excluded from the most recent critical minerals list?
 - a. Do you anticipate including potash and phosphate in the future?

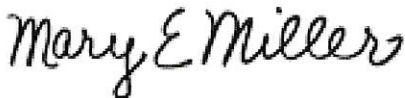
Sincerely,



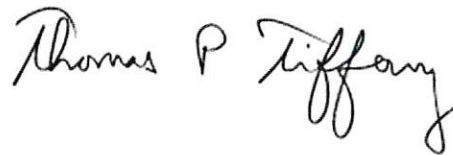
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



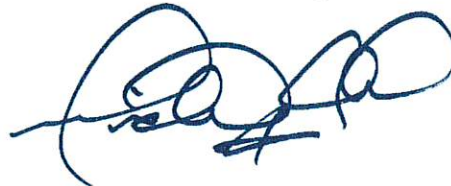
Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
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Clay Higgins
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Michael Cloud
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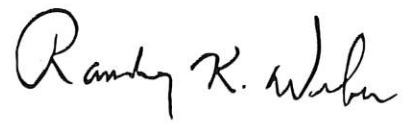
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