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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

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June 24, 2014

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

Dear President Obama:

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I commend you for your leadership on global food security. In America, many of us have grown accustomed to the availability of safe, affordable, and nutritious food. We often forget that our country's own agricultural development engendered our future economic growth and underpins our current prosperity. Your support for investments in global agricultural development, after decades of neglect and decline, represents a fundamental and critical shift to addressing our global challenge of feeding 9 billion people by 2050. Through your administration's Feed the Future initiative and global leadership such as the G8's Camp David Declaration, you have focused U.S. leadership on one of the world's most imperative challenges.

Today I write to urge you to continue your efforts to address global food security in Africa by making agricultural development a prominent feature of your agenda during the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit this August. Your administration has already made great progress accelerating private investment in Africa's agricultural sector and supporting new technologies and innovations. The U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit provides a timely opportunity to support existing efforts in Africa and expand a dialogue on our shared challenge of global food security and the need to increase agricultural productivity through sustainable technologies while supporting the resiliency of farms and rural families against the threat of climate change.

Freedom from hunger is a basic right for all humans. Nowhere is this fundamental truth more evident than in Africa where the production and consumption of food is so important to so many on a daily basis. As you well know, agriculture is a key component to unlocking Africa's economic potential and it is vital to addressing international food security. New agricultural technologies provide a platform for rural communities and women in particular to create stable food sources for their families and to generate income.

Thank you again for your leadership on these issues. My Committee stands ready to assist in any way as you and your staff plan for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Stabenow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator
Chairwoman, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

cc: The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary, U.S. Department of State
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID