

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
PENNSYLVANIA

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3805

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write in support of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's (PDA) request to operate the Disaster Household Feeding Program in all 67 counties.

As Pennsylvanians experience significant economic challenges due to the spread of COVID-19, emergency food providers across the Commonwealth have reported a significant increase in individuals seeking food assistance. At present, PDA's Bureau of Food Assistance anticipates serving approximately 772,500 individuals per month, including an influx of children, older adults and displaced workers. In these unprecedented times, PDA requires additional flexibilities to not only meet this augmented need, but to protect the health and safety of staff, volunteers and individuals seeking assistance. For these reasons, I respectfully request you provide full and fair consideration of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's request to operate a statewide Disaster Household Feeding Program.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, your team can be in touch with Alyssa Charney on my staff at [alyssa\\_charney@casey.senate.gov](mailto:alyssa_charney@casey.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Casey".

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator