



March 12, 2015

Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: ZA00 Miscellaneous Grant Programs

Dear Senator Kasemeyer:

Maryland is home to almost 6 million people and yet, one in every eight citizens do not know where they will get their next meal. For children, this number spikes to one in five.

Maryland's high cost of living coupled with stagnant wages and underemployment means that more families must routinely choose between food and necessities like medicine, housing, transportation, and utilities.

The Maryland Food Bank has launched a \$20 million capital campaign—*Food First*—to increase the organization's capacity to distribute food to families struggling with hunger throughout Maryland. By 2018, the Maryland Food Bank will increase food distribution by 25 percent, providing nearly 46 million meals (55 million pounds) annually.

Essential components of the *Food First* campaign include two new warehouses/branches, one in Cecil County and one in Charles County, to provide critical storage and support a network structure optimized for efficiency that will provide additional food resources to those in need, reducing hunger statewide. The additional warehouse spaces will support expansion of the Farm to Food Bank program, doubling the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables distributed by FY 2018.

The Maryland Food Bank is leading the way to a hunger-free future for our state, but ending hunger in Maryland will require a unified effort. The Maryland Food Bank is the only organization in the state capable of providing more high quality, nutritious food to our neighbors in need. **By putting food first, together we will build a stronger Maryland for all.**

The Maryland Food Bank is deeply grateful to the Governor and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee for support of our plans for branches/warehouses in Cecil and Charles counties.

Sincerely,


Deborah Flateman
President and CEO



March 12, 2015

Delegate Adrienne A. Jones
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: ZA00 Miscellaneous Grant Programs

Dear Delegate Jones:

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Sincerely,

Deborah Flateman
President and CEO