



September 28, 2016

Vote to End Hunger
Circle of Protection
c/o Rebecca Middleton
c/o Rev. Gary Cook
By electronic copy

Dear Ms. Middleton and Reverend Cook,

Thank you for the efforts of the Vote to End Hunger coalition and so many others who work tirelessly to fight hunger and poverty throughout our country and the world. As you are well aware, Governor Pence and I are running on a campaign to Make America Safe Again and to Make America Great Again. Part and parcel to fulfilling these goals is addressing the issues of hunger and poverty to which those involved with Vote to End Hunger are so deeply committed.

Poverty is still an issue that affects far too many Americans. In 2014, the poverty rate in the United States was nearly 15 percent, with more than 46 million Americans living in poverty – almost one in six of our neighbors, friends and family members. Those figures are disheartening, especially in light of the fact that it is even higher than in 2007. It is clear that the current policies coming from Washington, D.C. are making things worse for Americans.

I know that poverty doesn't discriminate – underprivileged and underserved families living in poverty face the same issues no matter their background. Hunger, a lack of employment opportunity, access to healthcare and education to name a few. We know that poverty is more common in certain communities, who often suffer in unsafe neighborhoods with failing schools, which then results in fewer nutritional or other retail options. This is a vicious cycle that robs too many of our fellow citizens of achieving their God-given potential. We can do better.

I have laid out a bold agenda to grow our economy, create jobs and restore vitality to rural and urban pockets of poverty. I have also made clear that the cycles of crime, violence and recidivism that plague underprivileged communities will be addressed as well. For decades the same cities, communities and neighborhoods have been promised change. Time and again, the same establishment political leaders have failed to deliver. In our cities, we will stand with communities to restore safety on the streets and excellence and choice in education. These two changes alone can help bring prosperity back to many blighted neighborhoods.

It is not just our inner cities. Too many working families in the heart of America have also been left behind as jobs and employers have sought less regulated and less taxed countries for locating their businesses. Our plan to revitalize the economy will establish the right incentives to bring manufacturing and other industries back to America's small and large towns alike.

Those families who struggle to feed their children and pay the bills each week should have economic opportunities and jobs to rebuild their communities and their future

As the Trump Administration renews American strength at home, we will be better able to support our interests abroad. Poverty, unemployment and hunger around the world have a destabilizing effect threatening international peace and security.

Nations that trade with one another rarely go to war with one another. Strengthening the rule of law and property rights in other countries should be a priority that our diplomatic and foreign assistance programs should be designed to support.

Focusing America's foreign assistance for other countries to break the back of despotism and foster economic growth and opportunity for their people will do more to alleviate hunger and reduce poverty for the long term than the decades of emergency and inefficient food aid and so-called development programs ever have. The cottage industry of Beltway contractors that has sprung up to service bloated and unaccountable bilateral and multilateral foreign aid programs is deeply committed to maintaining the status quo. I believe that the status quo is unacceptable. The billions we spend on child survival, maternal and child health and food aid can and must do more to help impoverished nations become capable of taking care of themselves in the future. As the saying goes, "Give a man a fish and you have fed him for a day, teach him to fish and you have fed him for a lifetime."

Americans are the most generous people on earth. We are there responding to every disaster in every corner of the world with both private and U.S. government aid. America's taxpayers deserve a reformed USAID and a multilateral engagement with organizations and foreign governments that are held accountable for results - measured in lives saved, poverty reduced, economic opportunities created, and diplomatic friendships made stronger.

The hands, hearts, prayers and wallets of the faithful are indispensable to these efforts. A Trump administration will always protect the conscience rights of faith-motivated helpers, healers and laborers in the many vineyards where the American flag stands as a beacon of help and hope. Those motivated by their faith to help the less fortunate should never be discriminated against in any government program on the basis of their moral and religious beliefs. That will never happen in a Trump administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald J. Trump', with a stylized, cursive script.

Donald J Trump