

To your Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

Or to your Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

We are witnessing a great catastrophe in the Horn of Africa. A massive drought in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya has destroyed the crops and livestock that more than 13 million people depend on for food. Ongoing conflict in Somalia has made it even worse. According to the UN, 750,000 people could starve.

This is the first famine of the 21st century — a deeply troubling milestone. We can help end hunger by investing in the world's small-scale farmers, many of whom are women. With access to resources like land, credit, water and appropriate technology, they can feed their families and help ensure a healthy food supply for generations to come.

I urge you to maintain funding for humanitarian aid in next year's federal budget. In particular, please voice your support for Feed the Future, the Obama Administration's signature program for assisting small-scale farmers in developing countries. With our help, the people of the Horn of Africa and elsewhere can make famine a thing of the past. We must do our part.

I believe, as the Prophet Isaiah did long ago, that God is calling us as a nation to do justice on behalf of those who are hungry:

*if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday. (Isaiah 58:10)*

When we unite as a nation to help hungry children and adults struggling to overcome poverty, we together express the best values of our nation and our faith traditions. We build a more just and secure world for everyone.

Sincerely,