



ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS

FOR GLOBAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE

EAD Sponsors

- Africa Faith and Justice Network
- American Friends Service Committee
- Bread for the World
- Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good
- Center of Concern
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Connections for International Health
- Christian Reformed Church
- Church of the Brethren
- Church World Service
- Churches for Middle East Peace
- Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
- Community of Christ
- Disciples Justice Action Network
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Franciscan Action Network
- Franciscan Friars (OFM) Holy Name Province
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Global Ministries (UCC/DOC)
- Interfaith Committee for Nuclear Disarmament
- Interfaith Worker Justice
- Interfaith Working Group on Trade & Investment
- Jubilee USA Network
- JustFaith Ministries
- Latin America Working Group
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- Lutheran World Relief
- Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
- Medical Mission Sisters
- Mennonite Central Committee U.S., Washington Office
- Metropolitan Community Churches
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate JPIC Office
- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
- National Religious Campaign Against Torture
- NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
- NewFire Network
- Oxfam America
- Pax Christi International
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Progressive National Baptist Convention
- RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund
- The Salvation Army
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur JPIC Office
- Sojourners
- Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Caretakers of God's Creation
- United Methodist Church
- United Methodist Women
- UMC - General Board of Church and Society
- Witness for Peace
- Women of Faith for the 1,000 Days Movement
- World Council of Churches
- World Student Christian Federation – NARO

At God's Table Food Justice for a Healthy World

April 8, 2013

As people of faith, we urge our members of Congress to enact a farm bill this year that alleviates hunger and malnutrition, supports vibrant farms and healthy communities, and protects God's creation.

Please support a full, multi-year reauthorization of the farm bill that:

1) Alleviates hunger and malnutrition

Protects and strengthens programs that reduce hunger and improve nutrition in the United States. We ask that funding for the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*, or *SNAP* (formerly known as food stamps) be protected from cuts and harmful structural changes that would increase hunger in our nation. SNAP has proved to be an effective and efficient response to hunger in the United States.

Sustains robust international food aid and improves the nutritional quality of food aid. In view of the ongoing threat of high food prices, natural disasters and humanitarian crises around the world, we ask for robust funding for programs that provide emergency and non-emergency food aid for the hungry. As the world's largest provider of international food aid, the United States must also lead the way in improving quality to maximize the nutritional benefit. Whether food aid remains under the Farm Bill or is moved to other accounts (as is under consideration), it is vital that full funding is maintained.

2) Supports vibrant farms and healthy communities

Helps beginning farmers and farmers from socially disadvantaged groups start in the business of agriculture. We ask Congress to support new farmers by funding programs—like the *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program* and the *Outreach and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers* program—that are critical in growing the next generation of farmers, an imperative goal in light of the aging of American farmers and in bolstering women and minority farmers.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days 110 Maryland Ave., NE Suite 404 Washington, DC 20002

(202) 543-1126 | AdvocacyDays.org

Builds local and regional food systems and the rural communities at their center.

For communities in the United States, we ask Congress to support programs such as the *Farmers Market Promotion Program*, *Senior Farmers Market Program* and the *Farmers Market EBT Program*, which provide new markets for small and mid-sized farmers in suburbs and cities, offering consumers the opportunity to support local producers and giving people in vulnerable communities greater access to fresh food.

For communities around the world, we ask Congress to reform international food aid by purchasing more of the food in the areas where it is consumed. *Local and Regional Procurement* can help more hungry people for the same cost, support rural development in low-income countries and increase global food security.

3) *Protects God's creation*

Strengthen policies and programs that promote conservation of soil and water and protect creation from environmental degradation. We ask Congress to protect funding for conservation programs, particularly those for working lands such as the Conservation Stewardship Program, which have substantial waiting lists and serve a diverse base of farmers and ranchers. Funds for these programs should not be used to pay for other priorities: farms and ranches play a key role in ensuring soil and water quality and in maintaining open space and wildlife habitat.

Our nation's food and farm policies, as embodied in the farm bill, affect people from rural America to inner cities, from our local communities to less industrialized regions around the world. A good farm bill can strengthen nutrition programs, help our struggling rural communities, support new and socially disadvantaged farmers, enhance global food aid to the world's most impoverished, and encourage farming and ranching practices that protect God's creation.

Contact constituent information:

Name: _____

Email and phone: _____

Street address: _____
