

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 15, 2026

The Honorable Erin Morris
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Administrator Morris:

Over the last two months, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) canceled or returned 16 bonus commodity shipments of milk, beans, lentils, and chicken designated for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank (RICFB) under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)¹. The canceled bonus commodities would have provided roughly 673,080 pounds of food, valued at \$398,532.26, to feed our constituents. We urge you to promptly provide replacement shipments of bonus commodities to RICFB.

Serving up to 100,000 Rhode Islanders per month, RICFB relies on bonus commodity shipments from AMS to supplement their work in addressing the growing hunger crisis in Rhode Island². More than 1 in 3 Rhode Island households are food insecure, and low-income Rhode Islanders miss over 42 million meals each year.³ In 2025, RICFB distributed 18.5 million pounds of food, including 4.3 million pounds of fresh produce⁴. TEFAP bonus shipments accounted for nearly 2.2 million pounds of the food distributed by RICFB in 2025.

TEFAP bonus shipments are a vital component of RICFB's food sourcing. Without the 16 canceled or returned shipments, RICFB will not be able to reach as many Rhode Islanders who need nutrition assistance. As such, we urge you, within all applicable rules and regulations, to prioritize the Rhode Island Community Food Bank for future bonus commodity shipments.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

¹ Shipments scheduled for May 15 (2), May 31 (2), June 15, July 15, July 31 (2), August 31, November 15, and December 31 were cancelled. Shipments scheduled for July 31, August 15 (2), August 31, and September 30 were returned.

² https://rifoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2025-Status-Report_Digital_FINAL-1.pdf

³ <https://rifoodbank.org/assessing-hunger-in-rhode-island-2025-updates-and-the-rhode-island-community-food-banks-spring-initiatives/>

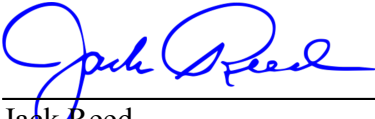
⁴ https://rifoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/FINAL_Annual-Report_FY25.pdf



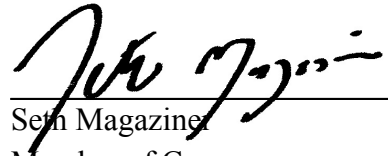
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