

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 1, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine further strains global food supplies, we write today to express deep concern about the potential impacts of the current global food crisis on U.S. national security interests at home and abroad. While the Biden Administration has announced multiple efforts to help address the growing food crisis, including by working to boost our domestic food production and global food aid, we respectfully request that the Biden Administration also outlines its short-, medium-, and long-term strategic plan to identify, prioritize, and mitigate the potential impacts of the global food crisis on U.S. national security to safeguard our interests abroad.

As you are aware, Russia's invasion is fueling a global food crisis already strained by the pandemic, extreme weather, high energy prices, and other factors. With Ukraine and Russia producing almost a third of the world's wheat and barley and half of its sunflower oil, the UN expects Russia's war and blockade in Ukraine to push "tens of millions of people over the edge into food insecurity, followed by malnutrition, mass hunger and famine, in a crisis that could last for years."<sup>1</sup> As more than half a million people are experiencing famine conditions and 276 million people are facing severe food insecurity,<sup>2</sup> disruptions in supply and rising prices for food commodities threaten to increase geopolitical instability around the world.

As such, it is critical for the United States to address the growing food crisis as a national security issue. Food insecurity threatens to exacerbate poverty, strain societal tensions, and increase dissatisfaction with governments, thereby increasing the risk of social, economic, and political instability—key drivers of mass migration and terrorism. The United States must work to identify how the global food crisis will further exacerbate existing pressure points around the world and how increasing instability could threaten U.S. national security interests. To that end, we urge you to provide us with your short-, medium- and long-term strategic plan to address the impacts of the global food crisis on U.S. national security. Such a plan is necessary to protect U.S. interests globally and to further support those most vulnerable in the growing food crisis.

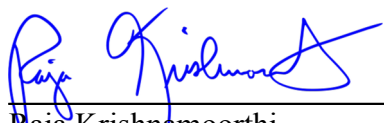
We appreciate your continued efforts to provide Ukraine and other vulnerable countries with humanitarian and food aid to help mitigate the global food crisis. We stand ready to assist you in any way necessary.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> "Nations must 'act together, urgently and with solidarity' to end crisis of food insecurity." *UN News*. May 18, 2022. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1118562>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



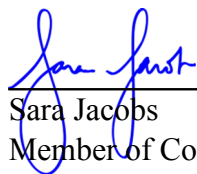
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



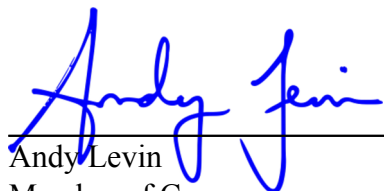
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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress