

Hunger Action Alert:

Please call Senator Gillibrand to urge her to protect the Farm Bill, including food stamps. (sample message below) **Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand 202 224-4451**

On Oct. 12, Congress will begin the Super Committee process to "address" the so-called federal budget deficit.

One of the key programs being targeted is the Farm Bill, whose main funding goes to the SNAP / Food Stamp Program. The Farm Bill is expected to see cuts between \$10 to \$40 billion. Much of that will be in farm subsidies. The House Republicans would also like to cut food stamps, though so far the Senate Democrats appear opposed. (Though the Senate Democrats did agree to cut the food stamp program in December to pay for the small increase in child nutrition programs.)

While the Farm Bill is not up for reauthorization until 2012, the Agriculture Committees may move it early in order that they can determine what programs will be cut rather than just leaving it to the Super Committee process. The Farm Bill needs major reform to better help end hunger, promote a healthy diet, and support family farms and a local food economy. In any case, the Senate and House Agriculture Committees are supposed to tell the Super Committee within the next 10 days or so what their priorities are for programs to protect.

In NYS, **Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand** is key as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. **Phone - 202 224-4451**. FAX for letters - 202 228-2082

(A secondary person is Sen. Schumer as a member of the Senate Finance Committee. 202 224-6452. Cong. Bill Owens (D - North Country, 202 225-4611) and Cong. Chris Gibson (R - northern Hudson Valley - 202 225-5614) are members of the House Agriculture Committee.)

Message

"We urge Sen. Gillibrand to protect funding for the Farm Bill in the super committee deficit process. The Farm Bill must do a better job of ending hunger, starting with increasing funding for SNAP (food stamps). Farm subsidies must help family farms and the local food economy rather than agribusiness. Subsidies should be redirected to support a healthy diet (e.g., fruits, vegetables, farmer markets, CSAs) while protecting environmental and conservation programs."

[If you want to talk about the deficit.](#)

"The federal deficit should be resolved by addressing the causes of the problem, not by cutting funding for essential services. The huge tax cuts and handouts to Wall Street, the wealthy and large corporations must be ended. The military budget must be cut, starting with ending the wars that have doubled military spending in the last decade."

If you would like more info on the Farm Bill, please contact dunleamark@aol.com. We have some older info on the Bill at <http://www.hungeractionnys.org/farmbill.html> . We plan to update our webpage shortly.