



June 10, 2009

Gerald W. McEntee
President

William Lucy
Secretary-Treasurer

Vice Presidents

Ken Allen
Portland, OR

Henry L. Bayer
Chicago, IL

George Boncoraglio
New York, NY

Anthony Caso
Boston, MA

Greg Devereux
Olympia, WA

Danny Donohue
Albany, NY

David R. Fillman
Harrisburg, PA

Michael Fox
Harrisburg, PA

Albert Garrett
Detroit, MI

Raglan George Jr.
New York, NY

Sherryl Gordon
Trenton, NJ

Lakesha Harrison
Oakland, CA

Danny J. Homan
Des Moines, IA

Salvatore Luciano
New Britain, CT

John A. Lyall
Worthington, OH

Roberta Lynch
Chicago, IL

Glenard S. Middleton Sr.
Baltimore, MD

Veronica Montgomery-Costa
New York, NY

Doug Moore
San Diego, CA

Michael D. Murphy
Madison, WI

Henry Nicholas
Philadelphia, PA

Eddie L. Parks
Westerville, OH

Randy Pereira
Honolulu, HI

George E. Popyack
Oakland, CA

Greg Powell
Austin, TX

Eddie Rodriguez
New York, NY

Joseph P. Rugola
Columbus, OH

Kathy J. Sackman
Pomona, CA

Eliot Seide
South St. Paul, MN

Mary E. Sullivan
Albany, NY

Braulio Torres
San Juan, PR

David Warrick
Indianapolis, IN

Jeanette D. Wynn
Tallahassee, FL

Members of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to urge you to preserve and strengthen the vital programs under your subcommittee's jurisdiction. They constitute an important safety net for millions of working and struggling families, and provide state and local governments with critically important funding. Specifically, we urge you to:

- **Appropriate \$7.777 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).** This is the federal appropriation proposed in President Obama's budget and what is estimated to be needed to serve the current caseload of low-income women, infants, and young children. In these uncertain economic times, we also urge Congress to closely monitor WIC data throughout the appropriations process and the next fiscal year to ensure that appropriated levels will meet anticipated needs.
- **Continue funding commitment for Rural Utilities Services.** Rural communities rely heavily on Rural Utilities Service funds to operate water and waste water disposal systems. Nearly one million rural households lack indoor plumbing and rural residents with water systems serving less than 10,000 are twice as likely to drink water polluted with microbes and chemicals. The Recovery Act is providing significant additional funding in FY 2009 for water and waste disposal systems grants. To ensure that rural communities have the resources to meet this strong need now and in the future, AFSCME urges the Appropriations subcommittee to provide at least \$490 million for rural water and waste disposal program grants for FY 2010.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our funding requests for these vital programs.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Loveless
Director of Legislation

CML:fbf

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

TEL (202) 429-1000 FAX (202) 429-1293 TDD (202) 659-0446 WEB www.afscme.org 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5687