



# CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

October 10, 2013

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Cantor:

Congressional gridlock over government spending is beginning to take a toll on public health. The current multi-state *Salmonella* outbreak, which has already sickened nearly 300 people in 18 states, is a clear indication that we need our food safety agencies firing at all cylinders.

The current *Salmonella* outbreak, linked to contaminated poultry, demonstrates that food safety expands beyond just the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); federal agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service also play vital roles. Not only has the government shutdown led to food safety agencies reducing their inspections and investigations, but it has also prevented consumers from getting the updated information they need about food safety risks and recalls.

It is the position of Center for Food Safety that the only way to ensure our food system is adequately safe and secure is for Congress to pass a clean continuing resolution (CR) that funds all federal agencies and departments, such as the one passed by the Senate on September 27.

The House of Representatives should not be cherry-picking which agencies reopen and which remain shuttered. Passage of H.J. Res.77: Food and Drug Administration Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014 on Monday by the House erroneously put FDA funding at odds with other critical food safety issues that remain in limbo as a result of this appropriations quagmire, including the regulation of agricultural crops and pesticides, food security programs like Meals on Wheels, monitoring of pollution from factory farms and CAFOs, and the protection of honey bees and other pollinators.

It is time for the House to end the government shutdown and restore all food safety and public health programs in America by voting on the Senate-passed clean CR that funds all federal agencies and departments.

Sincerely,

Colin O'Neil

Director of Government Affairs  
Center for Food Safety

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Cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Whip  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rogers, Republican Conference Chairman  
The Honorable James Lankford, Republican Policy Committee Chairman  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip  
The Honorable, Assistant Democratic Leader  
The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Democratic Caucus Chairman  
Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

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