



Senator John Barrasso
Republican Platform Committee Chairman

RE: Request for meeting with RNC staff drafting the 2016 Platform

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Over 48 million Americans live in food insecure households. Forty-six million live below the poverty line. Hunger and poverty have a devastating impact on American families, schools, businesses and the military. Around the world, nearly 800 million people lack sufficient nutrition to live productive lives. No wonder two out of three Americans believe that ending hunger should be one of the top priorities of our government.

Scant attention, however, is being paid to hunger and poverty in this election year. We do appreciate Speaker Ryan's efforts to engage GOP presidential candidates in a discussion on poverty at the January Kemp Forum. But both the media and the presidential candidates soon lost interest, and the presumptive GOP nominee has not spoken on the topic. This is an area where the party platform will need to take the lead.

We also applaud recent GOP efforts to encourage congressional candidates to visit poverty programs in their districts, and we have encouraged our local affiliates to extend invitations to them. They, too, will be looking to the platform for a comprehensive and coherent plan to share with their constituents.

Our organizations have extensive experience working with hungry and poor people in the US and around the world. We know that ending hunger requires the shared efforts of individuals, communities, the private sector, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and government. We strongly believe that, with real commitment and the right policies, it is possible to end hunger by 2030.

As the Republican party begins the process of assembling its 2016 platform, we encourage party leadership to support strong positive statements offering a coherent plan for addressing hunger and poverty – both in the U.S. and in the developing world.

At the grassroots level, Vote to End Hunger members are asking candidates, "If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in the US and worldwide?" We encourage the Republican Party to draft a platform that will help GOP candidates, at all levels, provide a substantive answer to that question. In the 2016 platform, we ask that you tell

us how the Republican party will take leadership, build consensus, and move us in the direction of actually ending hunger and poverty.

We seek an opportunity to discuss this request with the RNC staff who are developing the platform draft in preparation for the Convention Committee's deliberations. Please help us make the appropriate contacts to achieve that goal. Communications can be directed to Eric Mitchell (Bread for the World), at emitchell@bread.org.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Middleton
Chief Operating Office
The Alliance to End Hunger
VTEH Steering Committee Co-Chair

Lisa Davis
Senior Vice President of Government Relations
Feeding America
VTEH Steering Committee Co-Chair

Vote to End Hunger Steering Committee organizations

The Alliance to End Hunger
Bread for the World
Feeding America
Food Research Action Center
Meals on Wheels America
No Kid Hungry
RESULTS

Vote to End Hunger is a broad coalition of individuals and organizations all committed to ending hunger in the U.S. and around the world by 2030. We believe that it will take the combined public and political will to do this and are working together to elevate the issue of hunger with candidates during the 2016 election cycle. See a full list of over 120 participating organizations at <http://votetoendhunger.org/partner-organizations/>



Why the 2016 GOP Party platform should strongly address issues of Hunger and Poverty

- **Most Americans will experience poverty:** Nearly 40 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 and 60 will experience at least one year below the official poverty line and 54 percent will spend a year below 150 percent of the poverty line.
- **Hunger and Poverty are persistent:** Despite a decline in unemployment, 46.7 million Americans still live in poverty and 48.1 million live in food insecure households.
- **Hunger is widespread:** In the US, Food insecurity exists in every county, ranging from a high of 38% in Jefferson County, Mississippi to a low of 4% in Loudon County Virginia. One in five children live in food insecure households. Globally, nearly 800 million are hungry, and hunger causes the deaths of 5 million children every year.
- **Hunger is costly:** The health care costs of hunger in America amount to over \$160 billion.
- **Hunger can be ended:** Global hunger has been cut in half in the past 25 years, and the US has joined with over 100 nations to adopt Sustainable Development Goals that see an end to hunger by 2030.
- **Hunger has a constituency:** 2 in 3 American voters believe ending hunger should be one of the top priorities of government.



Representative Elijah Cummings
Democratic Platform Drafting Committee Chair

RE: Request for meeting with Platform Drafting Sub Committee

Dear Representative Cummings:

Over 48 million Americans live in food insecure households. Forty-six million live below the poverty line. Hunger and poverty have a devastating impact on American families, schools, businesses and the military. Around the world, nearly 800 million people lack sufficient nutrition to live productive lives. No wonder two out of three Americans believe that ending hunger should be one of the top priorities of our government.

Scant attention, however, is being paid to hunger and poverty in this election year. Poor and hungry Americans have escaped the attention of the moderators of seven Democratic debates, and only rarely have the candidates spoken directly on the issue. The Platform Committee, however, appears to be headed for a healthy discussion on poverty-related issues, and they will be looking to the Drafting Committee to provide a clear direction that can be embraced by all of the committee members.

Our organizations have extensive experience working with hungry and poor people in the US and around the world. We know that ending hunger requires the shared efforts of individuals, communities, the private sector, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and government. We strongly believe that, with real commitment and the right policies, it is possible to end hunger by 2030.

As the Democratic party begins the process of assembling its 2016 platform, we encourage party leadership to support strong positive statements offering a coherent plan for addressing hunger and poverty – both in the U.S. and in the developing world.

At the grassroots level, Vote to End Hunger members are asking candidates, “If elected, what will you do to end hunger, alleviate poverty, and create opportunity in the US and worldwide?” We encourage the Democratic Party to draft a platform that will help candidates, at all levels, provide a substantive answer to that question. In the 2016 platform, we ask that you tell us how the Democratic party will take leadership, build consensus, and move us in the direction of actually ending hunger and poverty.

We seek an opportunity to discuss this request with the Platform Drafting Committee. Please help us make the appropriate contacts to achieve that goal. Communications can be directed to Eric Mitchell (Bread for the World), at emitchell@bread.org.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Middleton
Chief Operating Office
The Alliance to End Hunger
VTEH Steering Committee Co-Chair

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Why the 2016 Democratic Party platform should strongly address issues of Hunger and Poverty

- **Most Americans will experience poverty:** Nearly 40 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 and 60 will experience at least one year below the official poverty line and 54 percent will spend a year below 150 percent of the poverty line.
- **Hunger and Poverty are persistent:** Despite a decline in unemployment, 46.7 million Americans still live in poverty and 48.1 million live in food insecure households.
- **Hunger is widespread:** In the US, Food insecurity exists in every county, ranging from a high of 38% in Jefferson County, Mississippi to a low of 4% in Loudon County Virginia. One in five children live in food insecure households. Globally, nearly 800 million are hungry, and hunger causes the deaths of 5 million children every year.
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- **Hunger has a constituency:** 2 in 3 American voters believe ending hunger should be one of the top priorities of government.