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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Fortieth District-California

August 2, 2011

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,  
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston:

As you know, I successfully offered an amendment to H.R. 2112, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for FY2012, which prohibits food assistance to North Korea. As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee who has long followed U.S. policy toward North Korea, I strongly believe that this is the right policy. I greatly appreciate your support.

Despite this legislation passing the House, the Obama Administration is actively considering the resumption of food aid to North Korea. I believe that doing so would be a costly mistake. Any aid sent to North Korea would certainly subsidize Kim Jong-il's cruel regime, whose nuclear weapons program and proliferation activities represent a serious threat to our national security. Moreover, food aid rarely reaches the hungry and suffering. While some have argued that better monitoring is sufficient, numerous North Korean dissidents have written and testified that no amount of monitoring can prevent the North Korean regime from diverting and otherwise misusing our aid. At a recent Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing, one refugee testified that North Korean government officials returned to the homes that received food aid after monitors had departed to confiscate the distributed food aid.

Predictably, seized food aid is often monetized for the benefit of the regime. A recent article found that Kim Jong-il imported \$10 million of high quality liquor, cigarettes, and other luxury items for the privileged class last year. Reportedly, \$2.4 million was spent exclusively to buy Chivas Regal, Hennessy X.O., and similar brands of high-end liquor. American taxpayers should not have their humanitarian concern and generosity abused so that Kim Jong-il and his inner circle can live in luxury, undermining our national security.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
Subcommittees:  
Chairman, Terrorism,  
Nonproliferation, and Trade  
Asia, and the Pacific

FINANCIAL SERVICES  
Subcommittees:  
Capital Markets and  
Government Sponsored Enterprises  
Financial Institutions and  
Consumer Credit

I am willing and eager to work with you to maintain this restrictive language in the final version of H.R. 2112. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Royce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

EDWARD R. ROYCE

Chairman

Subcommittee on Terrorism,  
Nonproliferation, and Trade