

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 10, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write to share our concern regarding recent reports that significant quantities of U.S.-purchased lifesaving commodities, including food aid and contraceptive supplies, have been allowed to expire or targeted for destruction instead of being made available to intended beneficiaries. While we appreciate that operational realities and security concerns can sometimes complicate distribution, these losses raise questions about both the stewardship of taxpayer resources and the Department's ability to implement processes to deliver commodities.

Recent reports indicate that millions of dollars' worth of commodities have expired or remained unused since January 2025, with additional costs incurred to dispose of them. Furthermore, it has been reported that European countries and trusted international organizations have requested to acquire and distribute these commodities, even to rebrand and repackage them at their own expense, but those offers were declined^{[1][1]}. These outcomes appear inconsistent with our shared goal of minimizing waste in foreign assistance programs.

A May 2025 Department memo noted more than 60,000 metric tons of food aid were at risk of spoilage before reaching their destination. By late July 2025, only around 12,000 metric tons had begun moving, with weeks remaining before final delivery. Just last month, 15,000 pounds of ready-to-use therapeutic food expired and was destroyed in a warehouse in Georgia, despite its critical role in treating malnutrition in children.^{[2][2]} Additionally, \$9.7 million of unexpired contraceptive commodities designated for destruction are being held at a warehouse in Belgium.

If policies have shifted such that the United States is now unable to distribute purchased commodities, we question the long-term impact on supply chains and humanitarian pipelines. Please provide us by September 30, 2025, with a complete list of all commodities purchased by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of State, including food, agriculture, humanitarian relief, health, and others, that are designated for destruction or set to expire by the end of the calendar year and your plans for ensuring efficient distribution of these items.

In this context, we also wish to highlight section 7015(j) of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (P.L. 118-47), as carried forward by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Public Law 119-4), which requires the Secretary of State to promptly inform the Committees

^[1] Kiros, Hana. "The Trump Administration Is About to Incinerate 500 Tons of Emergency Food", *The Atlantic*. July 14, 2025. Kannampilly, et al. "US-funded contraceptives for poor nations to be burned in France", *Reuters*. July 24, 2025.

^[2] Gowen, Annie. "Vast supplies of U.S. aid remain stranded, despite State Department promises", *The Washington Post*. August 2, 2025

on Appropriations of each instance in which assistance provided in the act has been destroyed. We believe it would be consistent with congressional intent for this requirement to include commodities that are destroyed, disposed of, rendered unusable, or otherwise fail to reach the intended beneficiaries as part of this requirement.

We look forward to receiving additional details on these recent cases, including a full accounting of costs, the rationale for destruction, and the Department's plan to prevent such waste in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Senate
Foreign Relations Committee

CC: Russell Vought, Director of OMB and Acting Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development

Michael Rigas, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources