

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Acting Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Acting Administrator Rubio:

I write to urge you to expeditiously reinstate funding for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut at the University of Georgia, which supports agricultural research at one of the United States' leading land-grant universities.

Since 2018, the University of Georgia has hosted the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut. Researchers at this Lab have studied the impacts of different temperatures and rainfall patterns on peanut growth, developed new disease-resistant peanut varieties, and created a risk index tool to help U.S. farmers increase yield potential and improve peanut quality. These projects benefit not only farmers in the United States, but also the U.S. mission to lead in humanitarianism.

In 2023, USAID signed a 5-year, \$15 million grant contract with the University of Georgia to continue projects at the Lab. However, on February 26, the Deputy Director of USAID's Office of Acquisition and Assistance wrote that the Lab's work "is not aligned with [USAID] priorities" and "made a determination that continuing this program is not in the national interest."

I request a written response within one week with an update on funding for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut at the University of Georgia. I also request detailed reasoning for the State Department's decision to terminate funding for agricultural research that helps American farmers.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

cc: Nadeem Shah, Deputy Director, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development