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March 6, 2006

Director, Commodity Procurement  
Policy & Analysis Division  
Farm Service Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rm. 5755-S  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0512

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: Procurement of Commodities for Foreign Donation, Proposed Rule  
CCC 7 CFR Part 1496

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule to adopt new procedures for use in the evaluation of bids in connection with the procurement of commodities for donation overseas, with a simultaneous review of commodity and ocean freight offers when evaluating lowest landed cost options.

CRS supports this proposal. The one step bid process will streamline the procurement process. It will reduce the procurement cycle by several weeks, which will have a positive effect on commodity issues related to timeliness of delivery, eliminate delays, and lower costs. Most important, by improving the delivery time, we will better be able to serve our beneficiaries and minimize pipeline breaks.

We look forward to the implementation of this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bonnie Green'.

Bonnie Green  
Senior Commodity Advisor

