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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Central California Food Bank Endorses Congressman Jim Costa for Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee

Fresno, CA – December 12, 2024 – Central California Food Bank (CCFB) is proud to announce its endorsement of Congressman Jim Costa for the position of Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee.

The House Agriculture Committee, in the upcoming 119th Congress, will play a pivotal role in negotiating a new Farm Bill, which includes the Nutrition Title. This title includes critical programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). These programs are essential for supporting neighbors experiencing food insecurity and providing food to food banks, ensuring that nutritious items are consistently available at food distributions throughout the Central Valley.

Throughout his tenure in the U.S. Congress, and in the last three Farm Bills, Congressman Costa has championed policies that strengthen our social safety net by addressing hunger and strengthening investments in rural communities.

“Congressman Costa has been a steadfast and dedicated advocate for food banks, and the neighbors experiencing food insecurity that access our programs and services,” said Natalie Caples, Co-CEO of Central California Food Bank.

“He understands the complex nature of the Nutrition Title, the need to protect SNAP to ensure continued access to healthy and nutritious foods —especially in rural communities— and that support for food banks through programs like TEFAP are now more important than ever,” Caples explains.

His deep understanding of the challenges facing the Central Valley, its residents, and food banks like ours has guided his support for robust federal nutrition programs; we have been proud to host Congressman Costa as a visitor, supporter, and volunteer at our facilities, where he always demonstrates his commitment to serving our community.

Congressman Costa’s extensive experience and unwavering commitment to bipartisan agricultural policy make him the strongest choice for Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee.

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“Jim Costa’s record, passion, and consistent leadership on issues impacting food banks and neighbors experiencing food insecurity is a testament to his readiness and commitment to advancing priorities important to the Central Valley,” added Caples. *“We are pleased to offer our full support in his bid to become Ranking Member of the House Agricultural Committee.”*

Central California Food Bank looks forward to continuing our partnership with Congressman Costa to fight hunger and strengthen food security for neighbors throughout the Central Valley.

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About Central California Food Bank

Central California Food Bank (CCFB) is the region’s largest nonprofit organization focused solely on ending hunger. CCFB has experienced tremendous growth since its beginning in 1992 and now serves at the center of a vast network of more than 240 member partners, including schools, churches, community kitchens and more to provide nutritious food to our neighbors in need throughout Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties. Through our comprehensive hunger-relief programs and services, we distribute nearly 50 million pounds of food to families in need each year, serving more than 300,000 people each month, including nearly 100,000 children across our service area. For more information about what Central California Food Bank is doing to fight hunger, visit www.ccfoodbank.org.