

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson
Chair, House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Bozeman, Chairman Thompson, and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the National Retail Federation (NRF), I write to thank you and other members of Congress for safeguarding the integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the FY 2024 agriculture appropriations bill by removing a provision creating a pilot program that would have harmed SNAP participants and food retailers alike.

The provision would have restricted the range of foods eligible under SNAP, and required grocers to scrutinize tens of thousands of food items to determine which were eligible under the program. Over 20,000 new food and beverage items are introduced each year, and stores would have needed to constantly manage the data and determination of eligibility for each new item, which would require never-ending programming and computer system updates to maintain compliance. This would have added enormous complexity and considerable expense for food retailers, created confusion for SNAP participants, and led to awkward and uncomfortable exchanges between retailers and the SNAP beneficiaries they serve. Although well-meaning, the pilot program would have fundamentally altered a successful government nutrition program that has helped millions of Americans in times of need.

We also are pleased the agriculture appropriations bill included an increase in funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Thank you for recognizing the vital importance of these supplemental nutrition programs for Americans.

Sincerely,



David French
Senior Vice President, Government Relations