



United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

September 29, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We write regarding the implementation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s final rule, "Updated Staple Food Stocking Standards for Retailers in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," published May 8, 2026, and to ask that USDA defer enforcement of the rule by six months. If no delay is granted, tens of thousands of well-meaning retailers will be at risk of losing their SNAP authorization on day one.

SNAP plays a vital role in supporting working families, children, seniors, and veterans in every state we represent. In our communities, convenience stores, truck stops, and other small-format businesses are often on the front lines of providing that access. More than 117,000 convenience stores participate in SNAP—the largest share of any store format and representing nearly half of all authorized retailers. These stores are frequently the only food retailer open overnight, within walking distance, or accessible via public transportation. In thousands of rural communities or urban food deserts across the country, they are often the only food store at all.

The agency's 2026 final rule is complex and challenging for convenience retailers to implement, and many questions remain following the limited guidance published on September 4, 2026. Most of these business owners are single-store operators with no dedicated regulatory or compliance staff. They alone must identify product gaps, source items meeting the new definitions, negotiate with distributors, and restock their shelves and coolers—all of which will take significant time and resources.

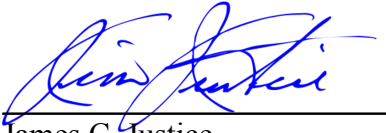
If a delay is not granted, tens of thousands of small format SNAP retailers will be unable to meet the requirements on the effective date of November 4, 2026, meaning they will immediately be at risk of losing their authorization. When that happens, the very households SNAP was designed to serve will lose critical access to food at the stores they have come to rely on.

We therefore respectfully request that USDA defer enforcement of the final rule by 6 months, until May 4, 2027. This will ensure that USDA can publish and circulate additional substantive guidance on the rule to give convenience retailers the best opportunity to comply.

Congress has addressed SNAP stocking standards through the appropriations process in every Agriculture Appropriations bill since 2017. Our request follows this established, bipartisan precedent. We stand ready to work with you to ensure SNAP remains effective and accessible for

the families who depend on it, while supporting the small businesses that make that access possible.

Sincerely,



James C. Justice
United States Senator



Roger Marshall M.D.
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



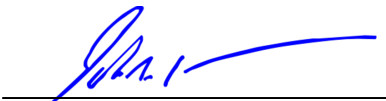
Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



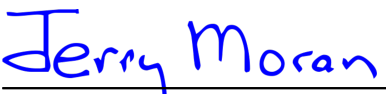
Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



John Curtis
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
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Bill Cassidy, M.D.

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Jon Husted

Jon Husted

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