

August 5, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, & Forestry
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, & Forestry
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Justice Amendment #4 to Delay Stocking Requirements Rule

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

On behalf of the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), I write to express our strong support for Justice Amendment #4 to the Agricultural Act of 2026 delaying enforcement of the Department of Agriculture's final rule, "Updated Staple Food Stocking Standards for Retailers in SNAP", until six months after USDA publishes comprehensive compliance guidance for SNAP retailers.

NACS represents the convenience and fuel retailing industry, with more than 150,000 convenience stores across the United States that serve 165 million customers a day. Nearly 80 percent of the stores in our industry are SNAP retailers in communities of every size, and in many rural and underserved areas, the local convenience store is often the only place where families can use their SNAP benefits to buy food.

This rule more than doubles the amount of healthy options on shelves and strengthens program integrity, which we align with. However, the problem our industry faces now is one of timing. The final rule was published in May, yet USDA has not issued the guidance retailers need to understand what those obligations require in practice. The regulatory text of the final rule, which is still all our members have to go by, raises basic operational questions that they cannot answer on their own. USDA itself has indicated that this is a complex rule, and it will take time to answer all the questions that retailers have. Our members need additional information and more time to identify product gaps, source products that meet the new requirements, negotiate with existing distributors or find new ones, and restock store shelves and coolers.

With a compliance date of November 4 rapidly approaching, the small format SNAP retailers that we represent will not be able to comply in the next three months. If a store cannot meet the new requirements due to lack of timely information from USDA, it risks losing its SNAP authorization altogether. For rural retailers, this can be particularly devastating, as the households that depend on these stores lose their place to buy groceries, and the community loses a food access point that is often impossible to replace.

This amendment is a measured solution. It does not repeal the rule or change it in any way. It simply ensures enforcement doesn't begin until USDA publishes guidance and gives retailers the appropriate window to comply once they know what is required. Additional time will mean stores can continue to provide the meaningful access to food that their SNAP customers rely on.

We urge the Committee to support this amendment, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to advance this priority in the final Farm Bill.

Sincerely,



Margaret Mannion
Director, Government Relations
NACS

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry