



May 23, 2024

The Honorable G.T. Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: NACS Supports the Nunn Amendment, #44**

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott,

The National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) writes today to offer our support for the Nunn Amendment, #44 as the Committee marks up the “The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024.”

NACS is the leading global trade association representing the convenience store industry, with more than 150,000 locations in every city and town across the United States, and more than 115,000 of which participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The convenience store industry serves the equivalent of about half of the US population every day and Americans rely on the goods, services and convenience these stores provide. This is especially true for those Americans participating SNAP. Small format retailers, including thousands of NACS members, are essential and valuable participants in SNAP. These retailers provide critical access to food to SNAP households.

NACS supports the Nunn Amendment, #44 because we believe SNAP recipients should have access to hot, prepared foods from SNAP authorized retailers. Over the past four decades, there has been a dramatic change in the eating and shopping habits of all Americans. The convenience store industry has worked hard to meet that demand by offering a variety of foods to serve our customers who are balancing work and home life. Individuals on SNAP shop and eat the same way the rest of American customers do, and they should have access to hot foods. Today, a SNAP recipient can purchase a cold, turkey sandwich from a SNAP retailer, but if the bread is toasted, it is ineligible for purchase with SNAP dollars. That makes no sense. The foods sold hot at our locations hold the same nutritional value as the same SNAP-eligible products sold cold or frozen. Simply put, the hot food restriction is outdated and difficult for our employees to administer.

This policy has been thoroughly tested, and is in effect when USDA issues waivers following natural disaster declarations. These times of tragedy have underlined the value of selling warm meals to Americans on SNAP facing significant challenges. Since 2023, USDA has issued eight hot foods waivers, including one that lasted up to eight months following the wildfires in Hawaii. During these times, SNAP authorized retailers can sell these foods and have done so successfully and without issue, further supporting the permanent removal of the hot foods restriction.

The Nunn Amendment #44, based on the Hot Foods Act (H.R. 3519), would lift the outdated hot foods restriction and has bipartisan support among House Agriculture Committee members and non-Committee members. It would not expand benefits, increase costs, or modify eligibility requirements for retailers; it simply removes the temperature restriction. Removing the hot foods restriction is a commonsense update to modernize the program and to better reflect how all Americans shop and feed their families today.

As this Committee moves forward with finalizing the Farm Bill, NACS asks that the Nunn Amendment, #44 be included. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Anna Ready Blom*

Anna Ready Blom  
National Association of Convenience Stores