

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson,

On behalf of the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), the National Grocers Association (NGA), and FMI – The Food Industry Association, we are writing to express our support for H.J. Res. 24, a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution that would nullify the Department of Energy’s (DOE) final rule titled *Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers*, introduced by Congresswoman Stephanie Bice (OK-05). NACS, NGA, and FMI strongly encourage Congress to pass Congresswoman Bice’s resolution to stop this burdensome rule, an unnecessary and costly mandate that threatens retailers’ ability to serve their communities.

Grocery and convenience stores are the backbone of America’s local communities, providing essential goods and services to millions of customers every day. Our industries operate on razor-thin profit margins, making any increase in operational costs a significant burden. The DOE’s final rule on walk-in coolers and walk-in freezers (“WICFs”) requires store owners that use this equipment to invest in expensive, highly specialized refrigeration equipment starting in 2029. Many retailers may not have the ability to take on the significant, upfront expense of this government-mandated technology upgrade, because they are already dealing with record-high costs for labor, utilities, and merchandise. Additional financial pressures mean retailers would either be forced to absorb these costs at great risk to their own business or pass them along to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Replacing WICF units also requires time for installation, which would lead to disruptions in store operations. Retailers may also face supply chain challenges in acquiring new WICF equipment, which could also drive up the cost for equipment. Additionally, older stores may require costly electrical or structural upgrades to accommodate newer equipment, and new stores may be unable to be built as rapidly into new communities due to the increased cost of new equipment. H.J. Res. 24 would provide much-needed relief by nullifying this harmful rule and allowing retailers the flexibility to make equipment upgrades based on market-driven decisions, rather than inflexible federal mandates.

We commend Representative Bice for her leadership on this important issue and urge you to support swift passage of H.J. Res. 24. Overturning the DOE’s burdensome WICF final rule will help safeguard the viability of small businesses and protect the grocery and convenience stores that millions of Americans rely on each day.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

National Association of Convenience Stores
National Grocers Association
FMI – The Food Industry Association