



May 9, 2024

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker Johnson:

On behalf of the United States Cattlemen's Association and our nationwide membership of independent producers, livestock haulers and regional processors, we write to you today opposing any proposals that would place restrictions within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), including the [*Healthy SNAP Act*](#) and any SNAP restrictions pilot program language. Proposals to restrict SNAP have included language to pilot restrictions limited to those that are deemed "nutrient dense". "Nutrient dense" is a vague definition with no determined list of foods that are in or out. While the intentions behind these proposals are noted, they will ultimately place more burdens on consumers and run a high risk of definition bias, setting dangerous precedents for future iterations of this crucial farm policy.

The livestock industry is already under constant attack by the false rhetoric of those that choose to exclude animal products from their diets, and it is critical that there is no room for subjectivity when it comes to defining the term "nutrient dense" as utilized in the House Agriculture Appropriations legislation. Administrative interpretation and threatens the availability of high-quality American products to the nation's low-income consumers. These proposals would open the door for interpretation and potential bias when put into real-world practice, as the weight of enforcement would be placed upon the grocery store cashiers to decipher what should go in and out of a SNAP recipient's grocery cart.

Restricting SNAP purchases is a slippery slope that could be easily misused and manipulated in future Farm Bill negotiations or Administration priorities. While sugary snacks and sweetened beverages are under scrutiny in these programs, it sets a precedent that Congress can make decisions far beyond nutrition policy regarding the diet choices of the American consumer. Ultimately, Americans should be trusted to make the best decisions for themselves and for their families, and artificially reducing their options violates their ability to choose. In an industry that depends on consumer demand, it's vital that decisions at the grocery store be left to the consumer.

Ultimately, these proposals are misguided and run the risk of having major negative implications on the agriculture industry. As farmers and ranchers across the country are eager to see the reauthorization the Farm Bill, the United States Cattlemen's Association stands in opposition to these proposals and urges elected officials to carefully consider the ramifications of moving forward with these programs.

Sincerely,



Justin Tupper
President
United States Cattlemen's Association

CC:

Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Senator Debbie Stabenow
328A Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Senator John Boozman
328A Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

House Committee on Agriculture
Chairman, Congressman Glenn Thompson
1301 Longworth House Office Building
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House Committee on Agriculture
Ranking Member, Congressman David Scott
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