

June 26, 2025

The Honorable Shontel Brown (D-OH-11)
U.S. House of Representatives
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tony Wied (R-WI-08)
U.S. House of Representatives
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Brown and Wied:

On behalf of FMI – The Food Industry Association, I write with our endorsement of the "Ensuring Fee-Free Benefit Transactions (EBT) Act of 2025." We are grateful for your leadership in making permanent a provision in the 2018 Farm Bill that protects Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) authorized retailers, who serve SNAP participants in communities across the country, from additional transaction fees.

The "EBT Act" permanently prohibits processing or other related fees outside the control of retailers from being imposed on SNAP food stores for electronic benefit transfer (EBT) transactions. There already is a permanent ban on interchange or swipe fees in SNAP. The "EBT Act" applies this same permanent ban on states and state contractors levying their side of processing costs or other related fees for a SNAP EBT transaction onto SNAP authorized retailers.

As private sector partners with the federal government serving as points of redemption for SNAP participants, FMI and its grocery members are committed to strengthening the integrity and viability of SNAP for millions of Americans in every community. Retailers continue to invest significant resources to participate in SNAP, including bearing the cost of equipment updates, software, training for store associates, and the processing costs for our side of a SNAP EBT transaction. Processing or other related fees outside of retailers' control have never been previously imposed on SNAP authorized retailers.

The imposition of processing or other related fees and costs outside of our control would be an unfair burden on food retailers. Imposing such fees and costs could result in some retail food stores feeling that they are unable to participate in the program, harming access for SNAP participants and communities.

Again, thank you for introducing the "EBT Act." We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in a bipartisan manner to enact the "EBT Act" in the Farm Bill reauthorization.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hatcher
Chief Public Policy Officer and Senior Vice President, Government & Member Relations

