



March 3, 2026

The Honorable Russ Vought
Director, Office of
Management and Budget

Mr. Vince Haley
Executive Director, Make
America Healthy Again
Commission

The Honorable Brooke
Rollins
Secretary, U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Dear Director Vought, Executive Director Haley, and Secretary Rollins:

We appreciate that this administration has expressed a commitment to promoting healthy diets for all Americans and is encouraging Americans to “eat real food.” We are writing to highlight a key opportunity for advancing these goals: including nutrition requirements in the rulemaking to update staple food stocking standards for SNAP retailers.

The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) include several strong, evidence-based recommendations, including advice to avoid highly processed foods with added sugars and salt; to significantly reduce the consumption of highly processed, refined carbohydrates; and to limit saturated fat in the diet.¹ Secretary Rollins has claimed that USDA’s updates to the SNAP staple food stocking standards will align policy with the DGA, ensuring that “healthier options will be in reach for all American families, regardless of circumstance, at levels never seen before.”² Unfortunately, the stocking standards updates in USDA’s proposed rule represent a missed opportunity to deliver on this promise.

In September 2025, USDA published a proposed rule to update staple food stocking standards for SNAP retailers, and the agency accepted public comments through November.³ In February 2026, just three months after the public docket closed, USDA submitted a final rule to the White House Office of Management and Budget for review.⁴

We support USDA’s proposal to increase the variety of food options at SNAP retailers by increasing the minimum number of staple food varieties that SNAP retailers must carry from three varieties for each of the four staple food categories (12 total varieties) to seven varieties for each category (28 total varieties). However, neither the current SNAP retailer staple food stocking standards nor the proposed updated standards include nutrition standards (*e.g.*, limits on added sugar, sodium, saturated fat, and refined grains) for foods to count towards minimum inventory requirements. The proposed rule would allow retailers to comply with updated stocking standards by simply offering a wider variety of unhealthy ultra-processed foods.

In comments to USDA, the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) shared an example set of 28 foods that comply with the proposed requirements, which includes foods like canned peaches in heavy syrup, Fruity Pebbles cereal, cinnamon roll-flavored yogurt, and SPAM.⁵ Without the addition of nutrition requirements, the updated stocking standards will not support the administration’s message to “eat real food.”

We strongly urge you to ensure the rulemaking does not allow any products that are high in added sugar, sodium, or saturated fat (*i.e.*, that contain $\geq 20\%$ Daily Value of any of these per serving, which mirrors the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's definition of "high" nutrient content⁶) to count toward the minimum number of staple food varieties and to require that the staple food varieties in the grain category must each be more than 50% whole grain. Importantly, these requirements should be accompanied by an implementation timeline and robust technical assistance plan for retailers to develop the infrastructure necessary to comply with the new requirements and to prevent any retailers from dropping out of the SNAP program.

Thank you for considering this request to help ensure healthy options are within reach for all Americans. We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,

Eva Greenthal
Senior Policy Scientist

Joelle Johnson
Deputy Director

Sarah Sorscher
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Anupama Joshi
Vice President of Programs

Peter Lurie
Executive Director and President

References

- ¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030. Available at: <https://cdn.realfood.gov/DGA.pdf>.
- ² Brooke L. Rollins. Healthy and affordable food is within reach for all Americans. *The Hill*. January 14, 2026. <https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/5687877-new-dietary-guidelines-real-food/>.
- ³ U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. Proposed Rule- Updated Staple Food Stocking Standards for Retailers in SNAP. Page updated: September 25, 2025. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/fr-092525>.
- ⁴ Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and Office of Management and Budget. Regulatory Review Dashboard. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/jsp/EO/eoDashboard.myjsp>. Accessed March 2, 2026.
- ⁵ Center for Science in the Public Interest. Comment on Updated Staple Food Stocking Standards for Retailers in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Proposed Rule. November 24, 2025. https://www.cspi.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/FNS-2025-0018-0140_attachment_1.pdf.
- ⁶ U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Lows and Highs of Percent Daily Value on the Nutrition Facts Label. Page current as of: March 5, 2024. <https://www.fda.gov/food/nutrition-facts-label/low-and-high-percent-daily-value-nutrition-facts-label>.