November 3, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Shiela Corley
Acting Administrator
Food and Nutrition Administration
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins and Administrator Corley,

We appreciate USDA Food and Nutrition Administration's efforts to create policies that promote greater access to nutritious foods and streamline processes. We understand that this is largely the intent of the latest updates to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Stocking Requirements (7 CFR 278.1). However, we have significant concern about the unintentional impact it may have in farmers markets and other farmer-focused settings.

Between 2021 and 2025, SNAP redemptions at farmers markets grew 49% and redemptions at direct marketing farmers grew 20%, giving SNAP recipients access to a wide range of healthy and locally grown foods while supporting farmers' bottom line. Farmers markets often operate like a specialty food store: as a primary community marketplace for locally grown and produced food products. Consequently, it has been expected that most farmers markets would predominately be authorized as a SNAP retailer under Criterion B determination. However, with the final rule taking effect tomorrow, we continue to learn about a growing and substantial number of farmers markets nationwide that were previously authorized with Criterion A. To have a better understanding of the extent at which this is happening, we have requested a report of all direct marketing settings that are authorized under Criterion A by each state.

Due to this new information and limited answers on how farmers markets, farm stands, and other direct marketing farmers can ensure their ongoing authorization requirements, **we are asking for a delay in enforcement of the rule by six months.** If no delay is granted, rural communities could lose access to nutritious, locally grown foods and farmers could lose access to markets that generated $359 million in SNAP redemptions between 2021 and 2025.

We respectfully request that USDA defer enforcement until May 4, 2027 or until USDA can circulate additional guidance on how farmers markets and direct marketing settings can ensure they are in compliance. This will ensure that USDA can host stakeholder sessions to provide guidance and ensure time for vendors to comply.

Sincerely,

Alaska Food Policy Council
American Farmland Trust
Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Farm to Table New Mexico
Kansas Rural Center
Louisiana Food Policy Council
Michigan Farmers Market Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association
Nourish Colorado
Pinnacle Prevention