



July 21, 2023

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)
U.S. Senate
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Peter Welch (D-VT)
U.S. Senate
124 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Lujan and Welch:

On behalf of FMI – The Food Industry Association, I offer our strong support of the “Ensuring Fee-Free Benefit Transactions (EBT) Act,” S. 2449, to protect Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants’ access to grocery retailers around the country. Thank you for your commitment to strengthening SNAP.

The “EBT Act” permanently prohibits processing or other related fees from being imposed on retailers participating in SNAP for electronic benefit transfer (EBT) transactions. S. 2449 also protects retailers from the financial burden of a migration to EBT chip cards. Processing and related service fees outside of our control have never been imposed on SNAP participating retailers. The “EBT Act” ensures that these fees will be permanently prohibited in the program and costs associated with a migration to EBT chip cards are not borne by grocers.

Retailers continue to invest significant resources to participate in SNAP, including bearing the cost of equipment updates, software, and training for store associates. The imposition of processing or other related fees and costs outside of our control would be an unfair burden on retailers. Such fees and costs could result in higher costs on consumers or some stores feeling that they are unable to participate in the program, hurting SNAP participants and their communities.

Thank you again for introducing the “EBT Act” and protecting access to SNAP. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in a bipartisan manner to enact the “EBT Act” in Farm Bill reauthorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads 'Jennifer Hatcher'.

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

