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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 4, 2026

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

The Honorable Sheila Corley
Acting Administrator
Food and Nutrition Administration
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins and Acting Administrator Corley,

Today marks the one-year anniversary of President Trump signing H.R. 1, the *Working Families Tax Cut* into law. This big, beautiful bill is a product of shared Republican priorities focused on advancing measures to support our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. More importantly, H.R. 1 delivered on the President's promise to restore integrity in our nation's social safety nets. While I support the use of quality control systems to safeguard public assistance programs from fraudulent activity, I write to express my concerns regarding the federal shutdown's potential impact on Colorado's payment error rate (PER) for FY26, and respectfully request their October and November 2025 data is excluded from the SNAP quality control sample.

As a Republican Congressman from Colorado—where Democrats have a trifecta—I understand the importance of federal oversight and the need for common-sense guardrails around taxpayer-funded programs to ensure benefits only go to eligible recipients. I believe holding states accountable for mismanaging taxpayer dollars is a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, at the same time new financial accountability measures tied to state's PER were taking effect, SNAP administrators experienced delayed federal guidance due to the unexpected federal shutdown.

Throughout the 43-day shutdown, thousands of paychecks were withheld from hardworking Coloradans, including civil servants and military servicemembers, forcing families to face devastating financial implications and turn to alternative food sources, like food banks or nutrition assistance programs. Despite being increasingly overwhelmed and operating with limited resources, three counties in my district—Adams County, Weld County, and Larimer County—administered hundreds of new SNAP applications to my constituents during the months of October and November 2025.

Due to the lack of federal guidance regarding implementation of H.R. 1 and the counties' irregular benefit issuance during October and November 2025, the PER data is not statistically representative of normal operations and could potentially jeopardize the state's access to full federal funding. As of last month, Colorado's PER for FY25 is sitting at 10.09%, which will subject the state to 15% cost-share for SNAP—upwards of $210M annually—in addition to the state match for administrative costs, adding onto Colorado's already strained budget. By permitting the exclusion of this data under existing regulation, 7

CFR § 275.11(b) and (c), Colorado's PER for FY26 is less likely to be impacted and would allow the state to stabilize operations in order to properly comply with H.R. 1 requirements.

Given these circumstances, I ask that USDA consider these external factors when determining the exclusion of October and November 2025 from FY26 Quality Control sample and extending hold harmless for H.R. 1 related changes during those months of uncertainty.

Thank you for taking the time to review this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office for further information.

Sincerely,

Gabe Evans

Congressman Gabe Evans
Colorado's 8th Congressional District