



National Grocers Association

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the National Grocers Association (NGA) and the undersigned member companies, we commend your leadership throughout the past several months in working towards tangible solutions to address the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic crisis. As end-of-year discussions advance in regards to a FY21 spending package or COVID-19 relief legislation, we request that you strongly consider the priorities of the independent supermarket industry, whose employees have been tirelessly serving at the frontlines of the pandemic since March to feed our communities across the nation. **We write today to request the inclusion of the following policies in an end-of-year spending package or COVID-19 relief legislation: tax relief to reward essential frontline grocery workers; limit liability exposure for essential businesses; and strengthen federal nutrition programs to feed hungry Americans—specifically expanding access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) online purchasing.**

NGA represents family-owned and privately-held grocery retailers and wholesalers that are located in every state and Congressional district. Together, our members employ nearly a million Americans on a full-time or part-time basis and provide grocery and pharmacy services to millions of Americans every day.

First, the industry's ability to meet customers' needs would not be possible without the dedicated and talented frontline workers who show up to work every day to move product and keep store shelves stocked. These workers serve even as they face serious challenges, including childcare, transportation interruptions and health concerns. While most grocers have increased pay and provided bonuses to their employees, the federal government should also recognize these individuals' sacrifices by including legislation in the end-of-year spending package or COVID-19 relief legislation that rewards frontline grocery workers for serving the public. NGA supports the bipartisan *AG CHAIN Act* (H.R. 6841), introduced by Reps. Thompson (R-PA) and Evans (D-PA), a bill that provides an exclusion from gross income taxes and temporary payroll tax relief to essential food and agriculture workers.

Second, independent grocers were proud to be designated as critical infrastructure by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at the beginning of the crisis. NGA members take their responsibility to feed the American public very seriously, but unfortunately many grocers are under threat of frivolous litigation simply for remaining open during the pandemic. NGA requests that Congress protect essential infrastructure business from unnecessary liability exposure, provided these businesses have taken reasonable steps to comply with guidance from the CDC or other health authorities. The *SAFE TO WORK Act* (S. 4317), introduced by Sen. Cornyn (R-TX), would help ensure grocers are protected if they made their best efforts to comply with federal, state, and local guidance. NGA urges you to include this commonsense language in an end-of-year spending package or COVID-19 legislation.

Finally, the limits of federal nutrition programs, such as SNAP, are being tested as large numbers of Americans enroll in nutritional assistance during this difficult economic time. The pandemic has also accelerated consumer demand for online grocery orders, especially amongst vulnerable populations who fear exposure to COVID-19 during a brick and mortar store visit. Independent grocers are working tirelessly to provide customers with online shopping options, but unfortunately only a limited number of grocery retailers are currently authorized to accommodate SNAP orders online because of several barriers preventing small retailers from participating in the SNAP Online Purchasing Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanded this pilot program at the onset of the pandemic to allow additional retailers and states to offer online shopping and delivery to their customers using SNAP benefits, but the lengthy and expensive process associated with launching continues to prevent many independent grocers from providing this service to their communities in need. NGA requests that Congress include language expanding access to SNAP online purchasing for independent grocers, such as providing technical and financial assistance to small retailers that lack the capacity and resources necessary to get online.

The independent grocery community appreciates your ongoing leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and we stand ready to continue our work in ensuring that Americans' most basic needs are met during this unprecedented time. We greatly appreciate your attention to the above priorities as you consider end-of-year and COVID-19 relief legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at gferrara@nationalgrocers.org if there is anything myself, or NGA, can do to be helpful.

Sincerely,



Greg Ferrara President and CEO
National Grocers Association

NGA Members:

Adam's IGA Supermarket
Alabama Grocers Association
Alabama Holley Farm IGA

Lincoln IGA
Little's Village IGA
Livingston Liberty Market



National Grocers Association

Albright's One Stop
Allendale IGA
Allen's IGA
Amagansett IGA Super Saver
Andy's IGA Foodliner
Archie's IGA
Armata's IGA
Arthur IGA
Ashland Shop'n Kart
Ashtabula & Geneva Giant Eagle
Ashville IGA
Associated Grocers of New England
Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc.
Athens IGA
Augusta IGA
Aurora IGA Fresh Market
Bailey's IGA
Baker's IGA
Baltimore IGA Express
Barbourville IGA
Barnwell IGA
Beartooth IGA
Belloni Foods, Inc
Bellport Super Saver IGA
Bell's Gourmet Market
Bellwood Hometown Market IGA
Bend Food-4-Less
Berkot Foods
Berridge IGA
Better Val-U Supermarket IGA
Betty's Country Store
Big Al's Market Express
Big E's Supermarket
Big T IGA
Bill's IGA
Bishops Market IGA
Blackford Foods
Blanton's IGA
Blue Marlin IGA
Livingston's IGA
Local Grocery
Lockwood IGA
Long Beach IGA
Loris IGA
Ludowici IGA
Luzerne IGA Express
Lyons IGA
Mackenthuns Fine Foods
Mackinaw IGA
Madison Food Corp
Main Street Grocery
Manchester IGA
Manning IGA
Manzanita Fresh Foods IGA
Marion IGA
Market Basket of Johnstown
Market Center
Market on Broadway Avenue IGA
Marona's IGA Market
Marrazzo's Market IGA
Mars Hill IGA
Martin IGA
Martin's Country Markets
Martin's IGA
Mar-Val Food Stores
Maryland Retailers Association
Massachusetts Food Association
Maurer's Market
McAneny
McDowell IGA
McKay's Market
McKim's IGA
McLane Co.
McMaken's IGA
Meat Depot
Meridian Food Market
Metamora IGA
Metcalf's Market

Blue Ridge Grocery
Blythewood IGA Foodliner
Bob and Jeff's Grocery Outlet IGA
Bob's IGA Store
Boiceville Market IGA
Boonville Sav U Mor IGA
Borowiak's IGA
Boulineau's Foods Plus IGA
Brackett's Market IGA
Braido Foods-Oberlin IGA
Brewer IGA
Broadus IGA & Pharmacy
Brookshire Grocery Company
Brookville IGA
Brushy Mountain IGA
Bryn Mar IGA
Bryson City IGA
Buddies Groceries IGA
Buddy's IGA
Buehler's Fresh Foods
Buffalo Shoals IGA
Buntings Cedar IGA
Burkesville IGA
Burkholder's Country Market IGA
Busch's Fresh Food Market
C. M. Treppendahl and Sons Inc.
Cairo IGA
Cal Mart IGA
Calais IGA
Caldwell Food Center
Calhoun WFO IGA
California Fresh Market
Camano Plaza Market IGA
Camden IGA
Carolinas Food Industry Council
Capri IGA Foodliner
Carlie C's IGA
Carl's Food Center IGA
Carlyle IGA
Carnation Market IGA
Carroll's IGA
Cascade Management Services, Inc.
Casel's Marketplace IGA
Casey's IGA
Cashsaver IGA

Metro Discount Foods IGA
Mickey's Food Store
Midei IGA
Midway IGA
Midway Market IGA
Miller Foods, Inc.
Millstadt IGA
Millville IGA Express
Minford IGA
Minnesota Grocers Association
Mississippi Retail & Grocers Association
Mitchell Grocery Corp.
Molsberry Market IGA
Monnat's Country IGA Express
Monroe IGA Express
Montauk IGA
Monticello IGA
Morgantown IGA
Mount Vernon Red Apple
Mr. B's IGA
Mt Plymouth IGA Fresh Market
Mt. Sterling IGA
Mt. Vernon IGA
Mullins IGA
Mundfordville IGA
Nabali Friendly IGA
Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market
National Supermarket IGA
Neighbors Food Market
Neiman's Family Market
Nemenz IGA
New Baden Market IGA
New Carlisle IGA
New Haven IGA
New Jersey Food Council
Newton Falls IGA Foodliner
NH Grocers Association
Nicholas Supermarkets Inc
Noble's IGA Foodliner
Noel's IGA Supermarket
Norm's IGA
North Albany IGA
North Main IGA
North State Grocery Inc
Northwoods IGA



National Grocers Association

Cedar Lodge IGA
Cedar Village IGA
Centralia Shop'n Kart
Certco, Inc.
Charley Family Shop 'N Save
Chelten Market IGA
Cheraw IGA
City Market IGA
Clay City IGA
Clermont IGA
Clifton Market
Clinton Foods IGA
Colerain IGA
Columbia IGA
Columbiana Foods Inc
Columbus IGA Plus
Community Foods Market
Consun Food Industries Inc.
Conway IGA
Cook's Oakland Park IGA
Copper Valley IGA
Corley's Grocery
Cornerstone
Country Foods IGA
Cowen IGA
Cox Food Group
Craigs ville IGA
Cranbury Market IGA
Crook's Marketplace
Crop's Fresh Market
Crossroads
Cub Foods
Cubby's Marketplace
Cypress Holdings Inc
D & R Market IGA
Darlington IGA
Dave's Marketplace
Davis Food & Drug
Davis IGA
Numero Uno Markets
Oakland IGA
Oberlin IGA
Ocean Shores IGA
Okanogan Market IGA
Oklahoma Grocers Association
Oliver's Supermarket IGA
Olsens Market Place IGA
Oregon Dairy
Orion Food Center IGA
Orono IGA
Osceola Food Mart IGA Express
Owensboro IGA
Oxley IGA
Ozark Empire Grocers Association
Pacolet IGA
Pageland IGA Foodliner
Palace Food Depot
Palmer's Supermarket IGA
Pamplico IGA
Park View IGA
Pasquale's IGA Express
Pat's Foods
Patty's IGA Market
Paxton IGA Foodliner
PC Foods IGA
Peck's Market IGA
Pennington Quality Market IGA
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Perch's IGA
Pete's Market IGA
Petrucci's IGA
Pettit's IGA Express
Pettit's Market
Philipsburg Hometown Market IGA
Phillips Everyday IGA
Picchioni's IGA
Piggly Wiggly

Dekalb Supermarket IGA
Del Sol
Delhi Liberty Market
Diamond Food Market IGA
Dillonvale IGA
Dill's Food City IGA
DiOrio's Supermarket IGA
Dissmore's IGA
Dixie Dandy Fresh Market IGA
Doc's Food Stores Inc
Don's IGA
Doscher's IGA
Doscher's IGA
Doug's IGA Market
Drennon's IGA Express
Dublin IGA Market
E.C. Porter IGA
East Center IGA Market
East Hampton IGA
Economizer IGA
Edgar IGA Food Center
Edmonton Foods IGA
Ed's IGA
Edwards IGA
Egolf's IGA
Eikenberry's IGA Foodliner
El Paso IGA
El Rancho Market IGA
Elgin Fresh Market
Elkton One Stop IGA Express
Ellore IGA
Elmer IGA, Inc.
Elsberry IGA Supermarket
Emlenton Iga
Enon IGA
Eureka IGA Foodliner
Eutawville IGA
Everett IGA Foodliner
Evergreen Market
Everyday IGA
Fairplay Foods
Fairvalue
Fairway Market IGA
Family Center IGA
Farmers IGA Foodliner

Piggly Wiggly Alabama Distributing Company,
Inc.
Pioneer Village Market IGA
Pocahontas IGA
Pond Cove Foodliner
Port Austin IGA
Potash Markets
Pound IGA
Price Choice
Pride Family Market
Princeton Food Mart IGA
Pruett's Food
Ptacek's IGA
Puckett's Food Stores
Quadro Supermarket
Quality Foods IGA
R & J Budde, Inc
R & M IGA
Rahillys IGA
Railer's IGA
RaisinRack
Rangeley IGA
Rccm Foodtown IGA Market
Red Bud IGA
Redlands Ranch Market IGA
Red's Hometown Market IGA
Reed's Ranch Market IGA
Reese & Ray's IGA
Regi Universal Supermarket IGA
Rehkopf Enterprises, Inc.
Reliable Self Service Market, Inc.
REM Market
Remington IGA
Retail Grocers Association - Missouri/Kansas
Riccardo's Market
Richburg IGA
Rick's IGA
Rideout's IGA
Ried's Food Barn
Ried's Markets, Inc.
Rising Sun IGA Fresh Market
Rite Price Foods
Rittman IGA
Rivertown IGA
Roanoke IGA



National Grocers Association

Fausto's Food Palace
Ferri Supermarket
Fiesta Foods
Fircrest Market IGA
Fischer's IGA Everyday
Fishers Island IGA Supermarket
Fitch's IGA
Fitzgerald's Foods IGA
Foley's Family Market IGA
Food Basket IGA
Food Cellar & Company Market
Food Champ IGA
Food Giant, Inc.
Food Ranch IGA
Food Town IGA
Food Towne of North Chili
Food World IGA
Foodland IGA
Foods Etc. IGA
Foothills IGA Market
Forest Park WFO IGA
Fort Salonga IGA
Fowler IGA Foodliner
Frederick IGA
Frenchburg IGA
Frenchtown Market IGA
Fresh & Save Market
Fresh Encounter Inc.
Fresh Foods IGA
Fresh Grocer
Frobose IGA Market
Fruchey Family Market IGA
Fuller's Market IGA
G & R IGA
G&J Brooks Enterprises, Inc.
Gabriel's Scotia Foods IGA
Garrett's IGA Supermarket
Gary & Leo's Fresh Foods
Gaston IGA Foodliner
Rock Cave IGA
Rockville IGA
Rodhe's IGA Marketplace
Roebing Town Market IGA
Ron's IGA
Ross/Hamilton IGA Express
Ross's Granville Market
Rowe's IGA
S & R Quisberg Inc.
Sabor Tropical
Salem IGA
Salyersville IGA
Sandersville IGA
Sandy's IGA
Sanibel Packing Company
Santee IGA
Santisi Wholesale Foods
Saubel's Markets
Save More Market Place
SaveCo
Sav-Mor Foodliner IGA Express
Saxton IGA
Saylors Market
Scaff's IGA
Schaefer's IGA
Schecks IGA Foodliner
Schiavoni's IGA
Schild's IGA
Schlegel's IGA
Schulz Market IGA
Selma IGA
Sendik's Food Market
Shaheen's IGA
Shelby IGA
Shelter Island IGA
Sheridan Select Market
Shoemaker IGA
Shop n save
Shop 'N Save Express

Gateway IGA
Gavin's IGA
GE Foodland, Inc
Geissler's Supermarket Inc.
Gels' St. Henry IGA
General Food Store IGA
Georges Market at Dresherstown
Georgia Food Industry Association
GF Buche Co
Gilbert IGA
Glasgow IGA
Gnazzo's IGA
Godwin's IGA
Goggin's IGA
Gong Ventures Inc.
Grabeel's IGA
Grandview Market IGA
Granite Falls IGA
Grant's Supermarket
Gray's Foods
Great Falls IGA
Great Lakes Fresh Market
Greene's IGA Supermarket
Greenport IGA
Greenup IGA
Griffin's IGA
Grimm's Central Market IGA
Groceryland
Grolmus Enterprises
Gulfside IGA Plus
H & G IGA Express
Haddens IGA
Hagerstown Food Mart IGA
Hammer & Wikan
Hansen's IGA Inc
Happy IGA
Harbor Beach Market IGA Express
Harbor Springs Market IGA
Harold's IGA
Harps Food Stores, Inc.
Harris IGA
Harry's Supermarket IGA
Hartsville IGA Foodstore
Hartzell's IGA
Harvest Market

Shope's IGA
Shopwise
Shumpert's IGA
Simon's Supermarket IGA
Sistersville IGA
Sitka Seamart
Sky Plaza IGA
Sliced Bread Market
Somerset IGA
Southold IGA
Southwest Food Mart IGA
Sparks & Sons Island Grocery
SpartanNash
SPD IGA
Spencer's Market
Spires IGA Supermarket
Sponey's IGA Foodliner
Sprinkle's Neighborhood Market
St. Joseph IGA
St. Stephen IGA
Stake's IGA
Star City IGA
State Foods
Steve DeYoungs Big Top Markets
Steve's Country Market IGA
Stodola IGA
Stoodt's Fresh Market
Stormans Inc.
Stuaqpak Store
Su Mercado IGA
Sullivan IGA
Sumter IGA Plus
Sunman IGA
Sunrise Market IGA
Super A
Super Bear IGA
Super G IGA
Surf City Super Market IGA
Susanville Supermarket IGA
Swafford & Sons IGA
T & J IGA Food Market
T. A. Solberg Co., Inc.
Tabor City IGA
Tarlton IGA Express
Taylor Market IGA Express



National Grocers Association

Helenwood Foods IGA
Henderson's IGA
Hendrick's & Hays IGA
Heritage IGA
Hewitt IGA
Heyworth IGA
Hickmans IGA
Highland Park Market of Coventry
Hillsdale Market IGA
Hillside IGA Foodliner
Hilltop Acres Farm Market
Hogue's IGA
Hollidaysburg Hometown Market IGA
Hollister Super
Holly Hill IGA
Holt's Food Center IGA
Holt's IGA
Hometown Foods IGA
Hometown IGA
Honey's IGA Vale
Hoopeston IGA
Horizon Management, Inc.
Horse Cave IGA
Howsers Supermarket IGA
Hunter IGA Express
Hurley Supermarket IGA
Hurley's Fresh Market IGA
Hyden IGA
Idaho Retailers Association
IGA
J. B. Sullivan Inc
Jack's IGA
Jackson IGA
James IGA Country Store
Jamestown Market
Janes Group
Jarrett Brothers IGA
Jay's IGA
Jeff's IGA
Techau's Inc.
Ted's IGA Supermarket
Teeples IGA
Terry's IGA
Texas Food & Fuel Association
Texas Retailers Association (TRA)
The Butcher & The Farmer Marketplace IGA
The Convenience Group, LLC
The Country Store IGA
The Goose Community Grocer
The Market IGA
The Myers Group LLC
The Richmond Shops.com IGA
The Village Store IGA
Thoman's IGA
Thompson's IGA
Thomson IGA
Thutch Inc.
Timmons ville IGA
Tobey's Grocery
Todd's IGA Express
Toft Dairy
Tonto Basin Marketplace, LLC
Top's Marketplace IGA
Town & Country IGA Market
Townsend IGA
Trading Union IGA
Trenton IGA Foodliner
Tri-Town Foods IGA
Tropicana Supermarket
Tryon IGA
Turbeville IGA
Tuscola IGA Plus
Tuten's Bi-Rite IGA
Twain Harte Market
TWF Holding
Tybee Market IGA
Tysens Country Grocery
Urbanna Market IGA

Jenkins IGA
Jerry's IGA
Jerry's Supermarket IGA
Jim's Foods IGA
John Herr's Village Market Inc.
Johns IGA Foodliner
Johnston IGA
Jubilee Foods IGA
Jungle Jim's International Market
Karns Food
Kaune's Neighborhood Market
Keith's Foods
Kennie's Market
Kenny's IGA
Ken's IGA
Kent's IGA Foodliner
Kershaw IGA
Kidron Town and Country Store
Kingsland IGA Express
Kingstree IGA
Kinsman IGA
Kirby Foods IGA Plus
Kishman's IGA
KJ's IGA Market
Kobacker's IGA
Kris Mart
K's IGA
KT Everyday IGA
K-VA-T Food Stores / Food City
LaBonne's Salisbury IGA
Ladysmith Fresh Market
LaFargeville Market
LaFollette IGA
LaGrange IGA
Lake City IGA Plus
Lake Region IGA
Lakeway IGA
Lambs Fresh Market
Lame Deer Trading IGA
Laniers IGA
Lansing IGA
LaPerle's IGA
Larkfield IGA
Latta IGA
Lavigne's IGA

URM Stores, Inc.
Vallarta Supermarkets
Valley Foods IGA
Valley Fresh Market
Valu Discount Inc DBA ValuMarket
Van's Thriftway
Vashon Market IGA
Versailles IGA
Vicente Foods
Viking Village Foods
Village IGA
W Lee Flowers & Company Inc
Waddell's IGA
Wadesboro IGA Food Store
Wagner's IGA
Wakefern Food Corp
Wall's IGA Foodliner
Walnut Creek Country Market
Walsh's Quality Market IGA
Walter's IGA
Warfield Shoprite
Warren Plaza IGA Super
Washington Food Industry Association
Weiland's Market
Wells Food Mart IGA
West Foods IGA
West Liberty IGA
West Milton IGA
West Norriton Farmers Market IGA
West Salem IGA
West Side Marketplace IGA
West Vigo IGA
Westport Shop'n Kart
Westside IGA
Whitaker's Food World IGA
Willamina Select Market
Williamsburg IGA
Williston IGA
Windham IGA
Windmill Market
Wisconsin Grocers Association
Woodbine Groceries Inc.
Woodburn Mega Foods
Woodland Food Mart IGA
Worton's Foresthill IGA



National Grocers Association

Leask's Market
Lebanon IGA Express
Lee's Bestway IGA
Leesburg IGA
Leitchfield IGA
Lemmon IGA
Leonard's Market
LeRoy IGA
Leyo's Supermarket
Liberty IGA

Wrangell City Market
Wrangell IGA
Wray's Marketfresh IGA
Wright's Market
Wurtsboro G-Mart IGA
Wyatt's Supermarket
Wylie's IGA
Yoder's Country Markets
Young's Payless IGA
Zanotto's Sunnyvale IGA Express
Zweiers Food Kart

cc:

All Members of the U.S. Congress