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Office of the Governor

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
406 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dina Titus
Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susie Lee
Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
365 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Horsford, Titus, and Lee,

Unfortunately, your suggestion to support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with state funds conflicts with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and is not a viable solution at this point in time.

While the State could seek access to reverted General Fund dollars, unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, or Rainy Day Funds through legislative authorization to temporarily fund emergency benefits, the emergency program would need to stay fully distinct from SNAP to remain compliant with federal regulations, per a USDA memo issued on October 10.

Administrator Robert Thompson of the Nevada Department of Human Services has been in constant contact with the USDA throughout the shutdown. He specifically requested clarity as to whether the State has permission to transmit the data of the SNAP recipients so state funding can be used for SNAP benefits.

On October 23, the USDA responded, writing, "State agency cannot share SNAP household data with the EBT vendor because using State funds to issue benefits to SNAP participants, does not meet Section 11(e)(8) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (the Act), and Federal regulations at 7 CFR 272.1(c). The State safeguards must permit disclosure only to people directly connected with the administration or enforcement of (1) SNAP, (2) other Federal assistance programs, (3) Federally-assisted State programs providing assistance on a means-tested basis to low-income individuals, or (4) general assistance programs which are subject to joint processing requirements."

The USDA further clarified this in a memo released to states this afternoon, writing, "Despite their willingness, States cannot cover the cost of benefits and be reimbursed. Unlike other reimbursable

programs, SNAP allotments are fully Federally funded. States are responsible for determining household benefits, and the movement of dollars through to the processors and ultimately to the retailers.”

Accordingly, per the regulations outlined by the USDA, even if I called a special convening of the Legislature and the Legislature opted to appropriate temporary SNAP funding, the State would not be able to directly fund the program. My administration has also reiterated this, repeatedly, to State Treasurer Conine.

Despite the State’s inability to legally fund SNAP with state dollars, I have directed the Governor’s Finance Office, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture to expand support for food banks and community partners that serve SNAP beneficiaries. Preparations for this supplemental assistance are already underway. I am also prepared to engage the Nevada National Guard, who will be ready to assist with food distribution to those in need. These resources will be available to any Nevadans in need of assistance as a result of the federal shutdown, like the thousands of Nevadans who are currently not receiving paychecks.

My administration continues to work closely with federal agencies and the White House to mitigate the effects of this shutdown on Nevada families. We are doing everything within our authority to support Nevadans who are being hurt by the federal funding stalemate in Congress being fed by Democrats’ inaction.

I implore each of you to join in bipartisan efforts to reopen the federal government – just as Senator Cortez Masto has done – and to call on your colleagues, including Senator Rosen, to pass a clean continuing resolution.

Nevadans deserve a functioning federal government, not political brinkmanship. It’s time to put partisanship aside and get the government back to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Lombardo', with a stylized, flowing script.

Governor Joe Lombardo