



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

July 23, 2026

THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
United States House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Scott,

Thank you for your June 24, 2026, letter expressing your dissatisfaction with the Department's timely response to your initial inquiry regarding reorganization and restructuring of the former Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services mission area, now aptly named the Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA).

Let me start by unequivocally stating there has been no disruption to any of the sixteen nutrition programs overseen by the Department. Every day, nearly \$385 million is invested in low-income families and communities. In fact, the men and women of the Food and Nutrition Administration have delivered record Farm to Food Bank programming, enhanced integrity measures to protect the generosity of the American taxpayer, and worked around the clock to deliver long overdue regulatory updates to a variety of programs. To question otherwise is disingenuous.

As noted in the Department's previous response letter on this topic, USDA remains steadfast in its commitment to provide exceptional service to all FNA program participants and ensure integrity within all programs. The Department's ongoing organizational restructuring reflects a continued dedication to ensuring these essential nutrition programs are positioned to meet current and future needs as effectively as possible.

In response to repeated employee concerns regarding the condition and safety of the National Office in Alexandria, Virginia, the current facility will close by the end of August 2026. In conjunction with agreements reached with AFGE and NTEU on April 3 and June 30, 2026, respectively, National Office employees will move to the Yates Building or the George Washington Carver Center within the National Capitol Region – a completely local move. Employees outside of Washington, D.C., in program and regional offices will move to five state support and evaluation hubs and four retailer operations and compliance hubs.

The reorganization will reinforce FNA's footprint across the country and strengthen the Department's ability to administer programs efficiently and with integrity. Establishing key programmatic functions closer to State operations will enable more responsive customer service, facilitate stronger coordination with local stakeholders, and support a service framework that is better aligned with the needs of program participants.

Thank you, again, for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov. A copy of this response letter has been sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stephen Alexander Vaden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" being the most prominent.

Stephen Alexander Vaden
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture