

Dear Chairman GT Thompson,

As Chair of the House Natural Resources Indo-Pacific Task Force, I write to you urgently regarding the Agriculture Committee [budget reconciliation text](#) released on May 12, 2025, which would eliminate the Freely Associated States (FAS) eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which was reinstated overwhelmingly by Congress last year on a bipartisan basis.

The Compacts of Free Association (COFA) Amendments Act of 2024—a bipartisan bill signed into law ([P.L. 118-42](#)) in March 2024—provides that citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau who lawfully reside in the United States are eligible for certain federal public benefit programs, including SNAP. COFA citizens who lawfully reside in the U.S. are immediately eligible for benefits as long as they meet all other SNAP financial and non-financial eligibility requirements.¹ The bicameral and bipartisan [Compact Impact Fairness Act](#) included in the package to restore certain benefits to FAS citizens was agreed to by multiple committees of jurisdiction, including the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

COFA establishes a unique relationship between the U.S. and the Freely Associated States, where the U.S. provides these nations with economic assistance, defense, and certain eligibility to programs and services in exchange for strategic rights and access to these nations' territories for defense and security purposes.

I urge the House Agriculture Committee to restore FAS eligibility to SNAP under Sec. 10012. *Alien SNAP Eligibility* of the Agriculture Budget Reconciliation text, which would limit SNAP benefits to “only individuals who reside in the United States and are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States.”

The United States must continue demonstrating our commitment to our FAS allies and uphold our agreements, especially in light of China's ambitions in the region. We urge the Committee to do its part in preserving eligibility benefits for FAS citizens residing in the United States, which was included in the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

¹ USDA - [SNAP Eligibility for Non-Citizens](#)