November 13, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
New York State Capitol Building, Executive Chambers
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill S1239F

Dear Governor Hochul:

The coalition of companies and organizations represented here respectfully request your veto of Senate Bill S1239F.

Collectively, we represent New York and America's food, beverage, ingredient, agriculture, business, retail, and hospitality industries. Our coalition members produce, source, manufacture, package, distribute, and sell safe and wholesome products in New York and across the United States. We employ thousands of New Yorkers and are committed to keeping our state an affordable place to live in and do business.

The United States has the safest, most efficient, and affordable food system in the world and the safety and quality of what we make and offer to consumers is of the highest importance. That is why all of us support a nationwide approach to food ingredient safety that is grounded in science and consistency for all. This legislation undermines the authority of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to effectively regulate the safety of the American food supply.

S1239F will only increase costs for New Yorkers and for the state with no corresponding improvement to food safety. It creates a redundant, New York-specific reporting requirement that imposes unnecessary bureaucracy despite existing federal standards that already ensure our safe food supply. No other state has implemented an extreme and costly mandate such as proposed by S1239F. For example, this year the California State Assembly declined to advance similar legislation due to its huge fiscal impact in that state. California legislative staff indicated that bill, like New York S1239F, would be so expensive that they could only estimate it would cost the state, "an unknown amount, likely in the millions of dollars per year, ongoing."

Recent studies show that duplicating existing federal oversight will cost $1.8 billion more to supply food and beverages to New Yorkers, costing the state $21 million in its first three years, and increasing grocery prices in the average New York household by approximately $620 per year.

These costs would extend beyond just shoppers as the State of New York is also a consumer and purchaser of food to support school meal programs, nutritional assistance programs, and institutional residence programs. The impact to eligible households in the Women, Infant, and Children program will be as much as $60 million per year due to additional burdens mandated in the legislation. It is not simply a matter of duplicating information already in hand.

This legislation will require the development of a new, unfunded public database and will necessitate additional staffing resources. None of this is necessary, as the FDA has announced a proposed rule on GRAS and Congressional legislation is pending; S1239F is unaligned with these efforts.

By creating two different regulatory standards for the food and beverage industry - one enforced by New York and one by the federal government - this legislation would inject additional costs into the food supply chain at a time when we should be doing all we can to bring affordability to consumers by lowering prices.

Governor Hochul, this legislation is unnecessary, harmful to New York businesses, will significantly raise grocery prices, and will not increase transparency or consumer safety.

On behalf of our organizations representing the entire spectrum of New York businesses, we respectfully yet strongly urge you to veto this expensive, misguided, and unnecessary legislation.

Sincerely,

1. American Bakers Association
2. American Beverage Association
3. Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance
4. American Chemistry Council
5. Buffalo Niagara Manufacturing Alliance
6. Business Council of New York
7. Calorie Control Council

8. Can Manufacturers Institute
9. Capital Region Chamber
10. CenterState CEO
11. Consumer Brands Association
12. Corn Refiners Association
13. Cortland Area Chamber of Commerce
14. Council for Responsible Nutrition
15. Edible Oil Producers Association
16. Flavor Extract Manufacturers Association
17. Flexible Packaging Association
18. FMI, The Food Industry Association
19. Food Industry Association of New York
20. Food Ingredient Safety Coalition
21. Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce
22. Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
23. Independent Bakers Association
24. International Dairy Foods Association
25. International Food Additives Council
26. Korean American Business Council of Greater New York
27. Korean American Grocers Association of New York
28. Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and CVB
29. Meat Institute
30. National Confectioners Association
31. National Grocers Association
32. National Supermarket Association
33. New York Association of Convenience Stores
34. New York Economic Development Council
35. New York Farm Bureau
36. New York State Bottlers Association
37. New York State Restaurant Association
38. NFIB
39. Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce
40. Northeast Dairy Foods & Suppliers Associations
41. Northeast Dairy Producers Association, Inc.
42. North American Millers' Association
43. North Country Chamber of Commerce
44. Partnership for New York City
45. Plastics Industry Association
46. Queens Chamber of Commerce
47. Rockland Business Association
48. SNAC International