

May 1, 2019

Office of the Speaker of the House
301 6th Avenue North Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Speaker Glen Casada,

As member companies of the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA), we are writing to convey our strong opposition to several bills currently being considered by the legislature that would, if passed, negatively impact LGBTQ Tennesseans. SFPA founding member companies Danone North America, Mars Incorporated, Nestlé USA, and Unilever United States view this legislation as anti-business and are disappointed to see the legislature consider discriminatory legislation.

In different ways, each of our member companies have a significant presence in Tennessee, from maintaining strong manufacturing, administration, research, and development operations in the state, to Tennesseans enjoying our products on a daily basis. For us, this issue is not political. These policies will have a harmful impact on business operations and the ability of businesses to recruit and retain talent, thereby putting Tennessee at a competitive economic disadvantage.

As a core part of our business principles, we firmly believe that all people are equal and that every person deserves to be treated with respect, dignity, and fairness, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, and veteran status. These principles guide the way we work, run our businesses, and engage with communities, and they contribute to our strength as we continually evolve alongside our consumers. We encourage all institutions – companies, governments, and societies – to act similarly by embracing diversity, practicing acceptance, and respecting each person as an individual.

One of the reasons we value operating and conducting business in Tennessee is because we believe the State shares this philosophy – which has resulted in the State of Tennessee being a great place to do business. We strongly urge you to maintain and strengthen this reputation and respectfully ask you and the legislature to defeat these anti-business proposals.

Sincerely,



Philippe Caradec
Vice President
Public Affairs and Sustainable Development
Danone North America, PBC



Brad G. Figel
Vice President
Public Affairs North America
Mars, Incorporated



Molly Fogarty
Senior Vice President
Corporate & Government Affairs, U.S.
Nestlé USA



Tom Langan
North America Director
Sustainable Business & External Affairs
Unilever

CC:

The Honorable Bill Lee, Governor

The Honorable Randy McNally, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate

The Honorable Jack Johnson, Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Jeff Yarbrow, Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable William Lamberth, House Majority Leader

The Honorable Karen Camper, House Minority Leader