



November 12, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the National Retail Federation, I write to express our strong support for the Senate-passed version of H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations and Extension Act, 2026. This legislation would end the record-long federal government shutdown that has created significant economic uncertainty for retailers, workers and consumers. **Please note that NRF will consider any votes on the legislation as part of the Retail Opportunity Index for our voting scorecard.**

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies, and ideas that help retail succeed. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$5.3 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs – 55 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

A functional and operational federal government is vital to the health and strength of the retail industry. The current government shutdown has had widespread impacts across a multitude of industries, slowing economic activity, curtailing important food aid programs, hampering travel and commercial activity, and weakening the nation's workforce. Reopening the federal government would provide much-needed certainty for businesses and help repair consumer confidence. As retailers begin the critical holiday shopping season, we strongly urge Congress to act to restore full government operations.

The retail industry serves as a barometer for the U.S. economy, and the ramifications from the shutdown have been felt by retail businesses of all types and sizes. The continuing resolution would fund the government through Jan. 31, 2026, and restore essential government services while allowing Congress and the administration to negotiate a longer-term funding solution. We urge you to vote "Yes" on this critical legislation. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David French
Executive Vice President
Government Relations

CC: Members of the U.S House of Representatives