Good afternoon,

Thank you for reaching out to request feedback. After careful review, my position remains unchanged. Adding an additional layer of regulation, particularly one that includes enforcement through the review process, creates a significant administrative burden on programs that are already highly regulated and chronically underfunded. This proposed change appears to address an issue that is minimal in scope. In Vermont, purchases of foods containing the ingredients referenced in the bill account for approximately 0.1% of total school nutrition food purchases.
I have also shared this revision with my colleagues on the Vermont School Nutrition Association Executive Board. While I do not want to speak definitively on behalf of the entire board, my sense is that there is not organizational support for this legislation for the reasons stated above. We would strongly encourage an approach that continues to incentivize scratch cooking and the use of whole foods, rather than one that relies on additional regulation or punitive measures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input.

Respectfully,
Laura La Vacca