



HENRY McMASTER, GOVERNOR
TONY CATONE, STATE DIRECTOR

July 23, 2026

Willie C. Taylor, Regional Administrator
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Southeast Region
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Taylor:

South Carolina respectfully requests an amendment to the definition of “soft drinks” in the state’s approved Food Restriction waiver.

The current definition describes “soft drinks” as any nonalcoholic beverage made with carbonated water and flavored or sweetened, or both, with five (5) grams or more of sugar or other natural or artificial sweeteners.

The State requests revising this definition to: *“any non-alcoholic beverage made with carbonated water and flavored or sweetened, or both, with more than five (5) grams of sugar or other natural or artificial sweeteners.”*

This amendment is intended to provide greater clarity and consistency in applying the “soft drink” definition within the state’s Food Restriction demonstration project.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and are available to provide any additional information needed to support approval of this amendment. Please contact Erika Anderson (Erika.Anderson@dss.sc.gov) or Anthony Williams (Anthony.Williams@dss.sc.gov) if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amber Gillum', is written over a horizontal line.

Amber Gillum
Deputy State Director, Economic Services