



United States Department of Agriculture

Decision Memo

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Park Office  
Center

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The U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota court ruling issued on November 30, 2016, pertaining to the whether annual Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) retailer redemption data should be disclosed to the public, found in favor of the plaintiff, Argus Leader Media (Argus). The district court found that “because of the speculative nature of the USDA’s claims and FOIA’s preference for transparency and disclosure, . . . the release of SNAP data will not cause substantial competitive harm to SNAP stores” and concluded that “the data should be disclosed.”

This decision memorandum memorializes the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) decision to comply with the court ruling.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jessica Shahin", written over a horizontal line.

Jessica Shahin  
SNAP Associate Administrator  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

1/18/2017