

July 16, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Main Street Businesses Urge Senate Passage of the Common Cents Act

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

The undersigned associations represent Main Street businesses that serve and employ millions of Americans across the nation every day. These businesses—large and small—must be able to continue serving their communities in ways that are fair to everyone and avoid unintended operational hurdles that are being caused by the halt in U.S. penny production. We applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the bipartisan Common Cents Act (H.R. 3074) by voice vote on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and respectfully urge you and your colleagues to quickly follow suit and pass this critical legislation that will provide clarity for Main Street businesses and their customers.

Since the U.S. Mint produced its last pennies over a year ago, businesses across the country have faced cascading impacts from the lack of pennies in circulation, operating under constant uncertainty about how handle cash transactions when exact change is unavailable. All the options today create the risk of potential legal challenges and significant financial losses.

As of this month, more than 15 states have enacted laws governing cash rounding. This is confusing to businesses and their customers. We need a clear standard from Congress allowing businesses to round cash transaction amounts and a safe harbor from liability if that is done fairly. The Common Cents Act as amended provides the exact solution Main Street businesses and their customers need.

Businesses and their customers across the country deserve certainty and consistency in their everyday cash transactions and need this legislation to be enacted into law as quickly as possible. As such, we urge you and your colleagues to bring the House-passed, bipartisan Common Cents Act to the Senate floor for swift passage to ensure that we can continue to serve our customers without interruption.

Sincerely,

American Beverage Licensees
American Booksellers Association
American Hotel & Lodging Association
Coalition of Franchisee Associations

Energy Marketers of America
FMI – The Food Industry Association
International Franchise Association
Merchant Advisory Group
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Grocers Association
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
NATSO, Representing America's Travel Centers and Truck Stops
OHI – Outdoor Hospitality Industry
Retail Industry Leaders Association
SIGMA: America's Leading Fuel Marketers

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate