

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for the bold steps you and your Administration have taken to date to respond to the novel coronavirus. As organizations representing the breadth of the food industry, we greatly appreciate your comments on April 8th and Vice President Pence's comments on April 7th recognizing the important work of employees across the food supply chain. Support for the workforce will be critical to keeping the food supply chain operating at a high level, and keeping American citizens fed. As you work on the next relief package, we strongly urge you to target direct tax relief to the dedicated, brave and talented men and women working tirelessly on the front lines of this epidemic.

The essential critical industries working to care for, feed, and protect Americans, in addition to performing countless other jobs fundamental to the continuity of the nation's necessary functions, are selflessly serving the nation during this time of crisis. Workers in these critical industries are serving even as they face serious challenges including lack of childcare, transportation interruptions, health concerns and emotional and physical exhaustion. On March 16th, your Administration issued updated Coronavirus Guidance for America stating, *"If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule."* Workers in these industries are taking this "special responsibility" seriously, ensuring public health and safety, the economy, and national security functions in the United States stay open for business. It is for good reason that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that Americans stay home to protect their lives. For those laboring in these vital industries, this precaution is not an option as they are part of the essential workforce.

Essential critical infrastructure workers are fighting a war against the coronavirus at great personal cost, and we ask that these workers under the DHS/CISA definition of critical infrastructure be recognized and supported by the federal government. We are recommending tax relief for these key essential critical infrastructure workers from federal income taxes and payroll taxes up to \$50,000 to demonstrate that all of us stand by these workers as they nobly and courageously serve as the nation's lifeline during this difficult time.

As you work with Congress on the next coronavirus response package, we strongly urge you to include tax relief for America's essential critical industry workers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Seed Trade Association
Consumer Brands Association
CropLife America
Flexible Packaging Association
FMI – The Food Industry Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Independent Bakers Association
International Bottled Water Association
International Dairy Foods Association
International Foodservice Distributors Association
National Association of Truckstop Operators
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Automatic Merchandising Association
National Chicken Council
National Grocers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Restaurant Association
North American Millers' Association
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association
Produce Marketing Association
SNAC International
United Fresh Produce Association
USA Rice Federation

CC:

Vice President Michael R. Pence
Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar
Secretary of the Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf