

November 18, 2020

Joe Biden
President-Elect
P.O. BOX 96663
Washington, DC 20077-7085

Dear President-Elect Biden,

On behalf of the 23 million skilled men and women who work in the United States food and agriculture sector, we congratulate you on your election victory. Your leadership at this critical juncture for our country is vital for us to manage and move past the COVID-19 pandemic and heal our country and our economy.

As you are aware, the workers throughout the food and agriculture supply chain, as part of the nation's critical infrastructure, have been on the job for the duration of the pandemic. During your campaign for President, you—on several occasions—recognized the dedication of our workers and we are grateful for your support. We have stood united as an industry with two overarching missions: to provide our fellow Americans healthy, nutritious, and safe foods and beverages, and to protect our essential workers so they could continue to perform their critical work. Throughout the pandemic, the food and beverage supply chain has remained flexible, nimble and resilient. Despite the heartrending impacts of COVID-19, Americans have been able to count on a safe, stable supply of food and beverages to sustain them through this crisis.

We are also proud of how our workers and companies rallied to support our country's food insecure citizens, donating products to food banks, feeding programs and organizations that help those hardest hit by the pandemic. These efforts have been led by supermarket and vending operators, food and beverage companies, that supply restaurants, schools and other institutions severely impacted by the public health measures put in place at state and local levels to reduce virus transmission. Some businesses pivoted away from foodservice to instead produce food and beverages to be donated to first responders, food banks and other charitable organizations.

In addition, restaurants found ways to partner with government and nonprofits to prepare meals for seniors, children, and other vulnerable populations. Moving forward, the foodservice sector of the industry looks forward to working with your Administration to broaden access to restaurant meals for low-income Americans by increasing food access points during times of crisis and by expanding the population of people eligible for restaurant meal service via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

We were able to carry out our collective mission to feed our country and safeguard our workers and communities due, in part, to a close working relationship with the federal and state agencies that share responsibilities for food and agriculture in the United States. We are enormously grateful that access to food has not become a divisive issue, even in these highly

charged times, and we look forward to strengthening the important relationships we have with federal and state agencies in the months ahead.

As you begin the process of forming your Administration, please know that we offer our partnership with you and your leadership in the federal agencies overseeing food, agriculture and public health to meet our collective mission without disruption. A strong, coordinated response at the federal level is absolutely critical to our industry's ability to meet this moment. Your Administration's partnership is essential. As we head into the winter months with COVID-19 cases climbing and more economic uncertainty ahead, we remain as committed as ever to ensuring our fellow Americans continue to have access to affordable, healthy, nutritious, and safe food.

Once a vaccine for COVID-19 is developed and approved for distribution, it is imperative that the federal government, led by your Administration, prioritize our nation's food, agriculture, and retail workers for vaccination among other key population groups, to help keep workers healthy and to ensure that agricultural and food supply chains remain operating. Our industries stand ready to partner with your Administration to ensure a strong, coordinated public education campaign brings widespread and sustained acceptance of vaccinations among the public.

Congratulations again on your election victory. We will continue to keep American families fed during these difficult days and we stand ready to work in partnership with your Administration to meet this critical moment in our nation's history.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association

American Frozen Food Institute

Consumer Brands Association

Global Cold Chain Alliance

FMI - The Food Industry Association

International Dairy Foods Association

National Confectioners Association

National Grocers Association

National Restaurant Association

North American Meat Institute

North American Millers Association

National Automatic Merchandising Association

Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association

SNAC International

United Fresh Produce Association