

March 18, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your Administration's efforts to protect our nation during these unprecedented times. Like you, we take very seriously the health and safety of our nation, as well as the ability to maintain a steady supply of U.S.-produced food, fiber, feed, and fuel. We request your assistance in ensuring this steady supply continues.

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, concerns have been raised regarding the availability of food and supplies. Members of our organizations – farmers, ranchers, input manufacturers and suppliers, processors, retailers, grain handlers, feed and ingredient manufacturers, lenders, applicators, and many others – contribute to the production, distribution, and availability of this supply to consumers.

We are proud to have a role to play in the great success story of American agriculture, including the abundance produced to feed and sustain U.S. and global consumers. However, this has not been without challenge. In 2019, over 19 million acres in the United States were left unplanted due to severe weather challenges. A difficult planting season in the spring was followed by production and harvest season challenges. Global trade issues impacted agricultural commodity markets.

With this year's spring planting season upon us, we face not only the potential for weather and price-related challenges but new uncertainties. As you consider additional steps to restrict movement to protect our nation from COVID-19, we ask your Administration to be mindful of the food, feed, and agricultural supply chain and workforce impacts on the ability of U.S. agriculture to meet the needs of consumers. These include but are certainly not limited to impacts on accessibility of seed, fertilizer, crop protection products, agricultural labor, equipment, feed and ingredients for food-producing animals, modes of transportation, the availability of required U.S. government inspection services, and daily movement of milk.

Our organizations look forward to sharing questions, needs, and concerns with the Administration in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Farm Bureau Federation

American Mushroom Institute
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Biological Products Industry Alliance
Cotton Warehouse Association of America
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau
Crop Insurance Professionals Association
CropLife America
Farm Credit Council
Hop Growers of America
Independent Community Bankers of America
Independent Professional Seed Association
International Dairy Foods Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Onion Association
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
North American Export Grain Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Select Milk Producers
Society of American Florists
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
The Fertilizer Institute
USA Rice
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Durum Growers Association
U.S. Peanut Federation
Western Growers
Western Peanut Growers Association