

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