

March 24, 2020

Dear Governor:

Thank you for your Administration's efforts to protect the citizens in your state 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. Members of our organizations include farmers, ranchers, input manufacturers and suppliers, processors, retailers, grain handlers, merchandisers, animal food and ingredient manufacturers, warehouses and logistics operators, textile manufacturers, lenders, applicators, and many others that contribute to the production, distribution, and availability of this supply to consumers. We are writing to request your assistance in ensuring this steady supply continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 19, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [released guidance](#) to help state and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19. This list appropriately identifies workers in the food and agriculture supply chain as "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers."

To ensure a consistent approach across all 50 states and local governments, the undersigned organizations respectfully request that you incorporate the CISA list and any future amendments into your state response plan, and any critical shelter-in-place or shut down orders for your state, thereby allowing these workers, facilities and services to continue to operate and provide necessary inputs for the food and agriculture supply chain.

These include but are certainly not limited to impacts on accessibility of seed, fertilizer, crop protection products, credit providers, agricultural labor, equipment, grains, oilseeds and processed commodities, flour, animal food and ingredients for food-producing animals, modes of transportation, daily movement of milk and all other agricultural commodities. With the spring planting season already upon us, the next six to eight weeks will be crucial to ensure that American agriculture can operate safely and without undue burdens that could inhibit our ability to do what we do best, feed the world.

Thank you again for your time and continued efforts to keep citizens safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to working with you to ensure that American food and agriculture businesses can continue to operate in these unprecedented times and provide our nation with a safe and abundant food and fiber supply now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
AMCOT
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Cotton Producers
American Cotton Shippers Association
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 (BPIA)
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
Cotton Warehouse Association of America
Cottonseed and Feed Association
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
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Cotton Ginners Association
National Cottonseed Products Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Council of Textile Organizations
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Onion Association
National Sorghum Producers
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Select Milk Producers
Society of American Florists
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Durum Growers Association
U.S. Peanut Federation
USA Rice
Western Growers
Western Peanut Growers Association