

April 3, 2020

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We appreciate the bold steps Congress has taken thus far to respond to the novel coronavirus and urge you to target future aid to the dedicated and talented men and women 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 challenges including lack of childcare, transportation, health concerns and exhaustion. On March 16th, President Donald Trump 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. For those laboring in these vital industries, this precaution is not an option as they are part of the essential workforce. Further, our essential workers who cannot telecommute are not allowed to care for their families at home and are forced to make arrangements for children who are no longer able to attend our schools or daycare centers.

Essential critical infrastructure workers are fighting a war against the coronavirus at great personal cost, and these workers should be recognized and supported by the federal government. Whether by exempting these essential critical infrastructure workers from federal taxes and requiring immediate adjustments to their tax withholdings, or by providing direct payments, the federal government should stand by these workers as they serve as the nation's lifeline during this difficult time.

As Congress considers its next coronavirus response package, we urge you to include support for America's essential critical industry workers. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact Dave Carlin ([dcarlin@idfa.org](mailto:dcarlin@idfa.org)) for further information.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
Consumer Brands Association  
FMI – The Food Industry Association  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
National Association of Truckstop Operators  
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  
SNAC International  
United Fresh Produce Association