December [ ], 2020

The Honorable [First & Last Name]

Governor of the State of [State Name]

[Address]

[City, State Zip]

Dear Governor [Last Name]:

Workers throughout the food and agriculture supply chain, as part of [State name]’s essential infrastructure, have been on the job for the duration of the pandemic. We have stood united as an industry with two overarching missions: to provide our fellow [State residents] healthy, nutritious, and safe foods and beverages, and to protect our essential workers so they can 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, [State residents] have been able to count on a safe, stable supply of food and beverages to sustain them through this crisis.

As the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prepares to grant Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 vaccines, and distribution-allocations begin to states and other jurisdictions, it is imperative that [State Name] prioritize food and agriculture – including supermarkets, wholesale distributors, and food manufacturing companies – for vaccination among other key population groups, to help keep workers healthy and to ensure that agricultural and food supply chains remain operating. We ask that your administration identify food and agriculture workers, defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) critical infrastructure designation[[1]](#footnote-1), as a priority group for vaccination.

The [Association Name] and our [insert approximate number] member companies stand ready to partner with your administration to ensure a strong, coordinated mobilization of essential food industry and supply chain workers to make sure that our members and their employees are vaccinated and continue to feed communities across the state. Our association can also amplify state vaccination logistics and information for essential food industry workers.

*[\*\*\*Optional addendum for state associations that include members with pharmacies\*\*\*]*

In addition to the vaccine prioritization of essential food supply chain workers, several of our member companies also own and operate pharmacies across the state. These members have expressed a desire to participate in distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the public vaccination process. [Association Name] is ready to coordinate with your Administration and local/state health officials to make sure that our pharmacy members are included in the vaccine rollout.

Please allow [Association Name] to serve as a resource for your administration to help ensure a safe and effective vaccination strategy. As your administration identifies populations for early immunization, we ask that you protect the food and beverage supply chain by prioritizing food, agriculture, and retail workers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Association Name]

Cc: [Name of State Health Department Official], [Title], [State Health Department]

1. DHS, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): [*Advisory Memorandum on Ensuring Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Ability to Work During the COVID-19 Response*](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v2_0.pdf) (August 18, 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)