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