



1152 FIFTEENTH STREET NW, SUITE 430
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
PHONE: 202-296-2622

December 8, 2020

Office of the Governor
Mailing Address
City, State Zip Code

Dear Governor X:

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the chicken industry has worked tirelessly to ensure minimal disruptions in the nation's food supply chain and to make sure all Americans have access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food. To promote the continued safety of our employees, the industry quickly implemented practices to mitigate the risk of transmission between individuals in the workplace, provided employees with personal protective equipment (PPE) and health screenings, enhanced sanitation procedures, and implemented many other measures to help keep our employees safe while they were working to ensure that meat cases were stocked with chicken. Most of these changes were implemented prior to the issuance of the Interim Guidance for Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The framework in the Interim Guidance has been implemented across the chicken industry to promote a safe and healthy work environment for our critical infrastructure workers during the pandemic and the industry continues to adopt new safety measures as they become available. The chicken industry has advocated for priority access to PPE, sanitation supplies, testing kits, and vaccines to protect our workers.

Employees of the chicken industry have been designated as "essential" by the Administration during the COVID-19 state of emergency. According to the Administration's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, "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." We have seen our employees step up to the challenge ensuring minimal disruption in the nation's food supply.

A vaccine is the next tool in the toolbox for us to add to the many safety measures in place. As such, we ask that our essential workers be given the next highest priority for receiving the vaccine behind our nation's healthcare workers, first responders, and high-risk individuals. Prioritizing vaccinations for our workers will not only be important to help keep workers safe and healthy but will aid in keeping our food supply chain operating with minimal disruptions. While we wait for approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), we want to reemphasize the importance of priority access to a vaccine for those who work in food and agriculture – particularly those who have been working tirelessly in the chicken industry.

Our industry remains committed to not only protecting our employees but also ensuring that the food supply continues to function with minimal disruption. Vaccine access will be an important step in maintaining continuity of operations into 2021. We commend everyone who has demonstrated extreme dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic and want to thank those who have diligently worked

to ensure that our nation continues to have a safe, affordable, and abundant food supply. We ask for your continued support as we work collectively to overcome the pandemic.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Brown", is centered below the text "Thank you,". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Brown
President, National Chicken Council

cc: State Health Secretary
State Agriculture Secretary