

July 29, 2020

Dear Senator:

As representatives of the food and agriculture industry, we ask you to support legislation (S. 4213) that Senator Ernst recently introduced to provide tax relief to essential workers, including the men and women working tirelessly to ensure that our food supply chain continues to operate for the benefit of all American citizens. Specifically, we hope that you will actively support efforts to include this bill in the COVID-19 relief package that is currently under consideration in Congress.

Frontline workers in the food and agriculture sector are among the designated critical infrastructure workers who are selflessly serving the nation during this time of crisis. They grow, harvest, manufacture, package, market, and deliver the food and agricultural products every American needs to survive. They serve even as they face serious challenges including lack of childcare, transportation interruptions, and health concerns. These essential workers are fighting a war against the coronavirus at great personal cost, and we ask that they be recognized and supported by the federal government.

The American public overwhelmingly supports offering temporary tax relief to essential frontline workers in the food and agriculture supply chain. In a recent poll of nearly 2,000 registered voters from the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) conducted by Morning Consult, more than three-quarters of Republican, Democratic and Independent voters support extending temporary tax relief to food and agricultural workers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Support for this relief is widespread across the country regardless of region, urban or rural residence, and income level.

The “Financial Relief Noting The Large Impact Of Our Nation’s Essential Employees Act” (the FRNT LINE Act) directly addresses this need by providing federal income and payroll tax relief for essential workers, including those in the food and agriculture supply chain. Including this legislation in the coronavirus relief package that Congress is currently considering would be a tangible way to demonstrate our support for essential workers as they serve the nation during this difficult time while also incentivizing their continued commitment to work.

As Congress considers additional legislation to respond to the widespread health and economic challenges posed by the novel coronavirus, we urge you to include tax relief for essential workers as part of the next legislative package that Congress passes.

Thank you for your consideration.

American Bakers Association  
American Beverage Association  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Spice Trade Association  
Convenience Distribution Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Flexible Packaging Association  
FMI – The Food Industry Association

Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Independent Bakers Association  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
NACS  
National Association of Truckstop Operators  
National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA)  
National Chicken Council  
National Confectioners Association  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Grocers Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Restaurant Association  
North American Millers' Association  
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association (PTNPA)  
Produce Marketing Association  
SNAC International  
United Fresh Produce Association