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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Donald Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write this letter on behalf of the Foodservice Distribution Industry, which employs nearly 1 million U.S. workers, that is directly impacted by COVID-19. Specifically, we are requesting that the Department of Treasury establish a priority for loan applications from the foodservice distribution industry through Title IV, "Economic Stabilization and Assistance to Severely Distressed Sectors of the U.S. Economy" of the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (CARES Act).

The foodservice distribution industry is a critical part of our food supply chain in this country, providing the transportation and logistics support to ensure that fresh, safe food produced by America's farmers and manufacturers, fills the kitchens, shelves, and pantries of our nation's hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living centers, restaurants, schools, military bases, hotels, entertainment venues, correctional facilities and other public service institutions.

Before the pandemic, approximately 50 percent of the food in America was consumed outside the home. Due to COVID-19, that demand is now shifting to the grocery sector and early signs of pockets of shortage have already emerged. As this demand shifts as a result of the COVID-19 situation, the foodservice distribution industry will become even more essential in helping to fill this temporary need.

Yet, this redeployment of a portion of the idle resources in the food distribution sector will not substantially reduce the financial impact of the collapse of the out of home food market. As our infrastructure of warehousing, transportation, and delivery shrinks, our ability to effectively serve healthcare, correctional facilities, military bases, and other public service institutions around the country are at risk.

We urge you to consider financial assistance for these companies by establishing a priority for loan applications from the foodservice distribution industry so that they may continue in their important work and can retain their critical base of employees.

We commend the Administration for its attention to this matter and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Will Hurd
M.C.

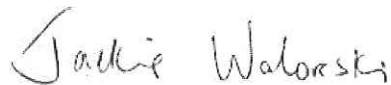
Will Hurd
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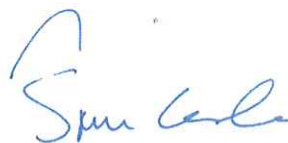
Doug LaMalfa
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Darin LaHood
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Tom Cole
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Ross Spano
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Alex X. Mooney
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Richard Hudson
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/s/

William R. Keating
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JOE COURTNEY
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Gregory V. Murphy, M.D.
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/s/

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress