

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Angie Craig
U.S. House of Representatives
2442 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Representative Craig,

Since the beginning of the pandemic, America's farmers, ranchers, food and agriculture workers have continued to deliver the essential food supply that Americans have always relied upon. Even during the surging COVID-19 cases due to the emergence of the omicron variant, our supply chains have bent but they have not broken. However, demand for food, beverage and agriculture products is as high as it has ever been during the pandemic while out-of-stock rates continue to increase.

As representatives of America's food, beverage, retail, and agriculture sectors, we write in strong support of your amendment (Craig 398) to H.R. 4521, the America COMPETES Act, which directs the newly created position of the Assistant Secretary for Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response to consult with the Secretary of Agriculture and evaluate the stability of the Agriculture and Food System supply chain, and to provide a report to Congress on vulnerabilities in this supply chain and ways to address those vulnerabilities.

The creation of an Assistant Secretary of Commerce to focus on supply chain is an excellent idea that we wholeheartedly support. Your amendment rightly goes a step further in recognizing the need for coordination between this new Assistant Secretary of Commerce and the prioritization of America's food supply. Simply put, America's families cannot afford to wait for necessary food, beverages and agriculture products and we believe your amendment will help ensure the continued reliable availability of these essential items.

Thank you for your leadership as Co-Chair of the Congressional Supply Chain Caucus and your efforts on this amendment. We look forward to working with you on this and other related issues.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Frozen Food Institute
Consumer Brands Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
International Bottled Water Association
International Dairy Foods Association
International Fresh Produce Association
National Grocers Association
SNAC International