



February 2, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Vice President Kamala Harris
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

On behalf of the Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA), congratulations on your victory in the presidential election. This is a critical time for our nation and we appreciate your leadership. We are pleased to offer our support and assistance as your administration works to respond to the pandemic and stimulate the economic recovery.

GCCA represents all major sectors of the cold chain and unites partners to be innovative leaders in the temperature-controlled logistics industry. Designated an essential industry supporting the nation's critical infrastructure, GCCA and its members are committed to advancing food security and ensuring safe, high quality, affordable, and reliable access to the globe's food supply. Through its four Core Partners, GCCA represents more than 1,100 companies in 85 countries who serve the food industry by providing third-party, temperature-controlled supply chain services.

GCCA's member companies have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to ensure that families across the country, and globe, continue to have consistent access to food. Frontline workers in our industry are truly heroes of the food supply chain. We request that as you move to ramp up vaccine production and distribution, that essential workers in the food industry are recognized as a priority population for receiving vaccines. Our members stand ready to assist.

GCCA members took early action to implement CDC and OSHA guidance to protect employees by utilizing personal protective equipment, following social distancing and enhancing cleaning procedures. As you consider additional COVID relief policies, we request your support of narrowly targeted liability protections for essential businesses

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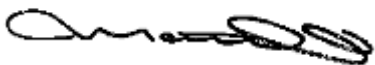
that have performed critical functions to maintain the food supply while taking appropriate actions to protect their employees. Such companies need protections from unnecessary liability exposure, so long as they have worked in good faith to comply with federal, state, and local guidance.

We appreciate your administration's broad support of science, particularly as it relates to the pandemic. Unfortunately, we are concerned about erroneous claims coming from China about the potential risk of transmitting COVID-19 through food. Such an assertion is counter to the accepted scientific consensus and would unnecessarily create challenges for the reputation of US-produced foods by fostering misunderstanding among consumers at a critical moment when we most need clarity. Further, such departure from science would undermine the tremendous efforts of all food workers to ensure a safe food system. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), along with leading food safety experts, all agree that there is no evidence for the spread of COVID-19 through consumption of food or handling food packaging, and no known illnesses have been associated with foodborne COVID-19. We request your assistance in standing by the established science that COVID-19 is a respiratory disease, not a foodborne illness, and reinforcing that the US continues to maintain the safest food supply in the world.

In addition to the specific issues outlined above related to the pandemic, we would appreciate your assistance with general business policies impacting cold chain businesses as the nation recovers from the pandemic. The majority of GCCA members are small businesses and we urge you to consider the challenges facing small businesses when looking at potential policy changes and new regulations. For example, changes to the tax code at this time could have significantly larger negative consequences for companies that are working to survive the current economic challenges. Additional regulatory burdens will also have disproportionately negative impacts on companies during the pandemic. We urge you to take these factors into consideration as you develop economic policies.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of the key priorities for the cold chain industry. We look forward to working with you and stand ready to be a resource to support the Administration.

Sincerely,



Matthew Ott
President and CEO, Global Cold Chain Alliance

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