

Critical Infrastructure Supply Chain Council

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader McCarthy:

Thirty million frontline essential workers have come to work every day during the COVID-19 crisis to provide the services and products needed for Americans to stay home and stay safe. This workforce was designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices as priority Phase 1b vaccine recipients.

But as COVID-19 spreads, states create divergent policies and access to vaccines remains challenging, absenteeism increases and our ability to continue to keep essential goods and services readily available for all Americans is threatened.

We need innovative solutions to address this substantial problem, and we request that you include directive language and, if necessary, funding in the COVID-19 Relief Package encouraging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Guard to work with states on mobile vaccine channels for our nation's frontline essential workers. Mobile vaccination programs are currently being piloted by states and local emergency management and public health officials that take the vaccines to the people where they gather, which reduces their exposure and relieves the burden of finding vaccination sites. These mobile vaccination centers complement – not replace - other vaccine access channels being implemented, including direct to retail pharmacy access.

Proposed directive:

"FEMA, in collaboration with the National Guard, is directed to explore the status of state-based mobile COVID-19 vaccination pilot programs and assess their scalability to improve vaccine delivery to frontline essential workers."

A number of states and localities have unnecessarily exacerbated those risks with inconsistent approaches to vaccine distribution that at times have ignored CDC recommendations. We believe funding mobile vaccination centers will help to efficiently vaccinate the 30 million frontline essential workers designated by CDC as critical for

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functioning of society and still allow states the flexibility to address their most immediate needs.

Federal leadership is more necessary than ever, and critical infrastructure stakeholders stand ready to work with you to protect our workforce and provide Americans with the confidence that our industry will continue to deliver for them in our nation's time of need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Bakers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
Consumer Brands Association
Corn Refiners Association
Crop Life America
FMI - The Food Industry Association
Fragrance Creators Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
International Bottled Water Association
National Association of Beverage Importers Inc.
National Automatic Merchandising Association
National Grain & Feed Association
National Grocers Association
National Retail Federation
National Turkey Federation
North American Meat Institute
North American Renderers Association
Pet Food Institute
Responsible Industry for Sound Environment
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
United Fresh Produce Association
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America

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