Dear Governor [Whitmer]:

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for your leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.  We greatly appreciate the steps your administration has taken to keep [Michiganders] safe as well as your tireless efforts to plan for the COVID-19 vaccination effort.  Respectfully, however, we are concerned that [Michigan] has departed from the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to prioritize food and agriculture essential workers in Phase 1b immediately after initial allocations targeting healthcare workers.

As you know, in order to keep the food supply chain running and Americans nourished during the ongoing health crisis, the federal government designated the food and agriculture sector as part of the nation’s critical infrastructure via the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s [*Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce*](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce).  As a result, the food industry has continued, bolstered, and at times shifted operations to ensure American families across the country have access to our products.  Despite the heart-wrenching impacts of COVID-19, [Michiganders] have been able to count on a safe, stable supply of food and beverages to sustain them through this crisis. However, at this point, prioritizing COVID-19 vaccinations for food and agriculture essential workers would allow a key intervention to keep supply chains operating while those designated to receive the vaccine later continue to observe safety and distancing measures in their communities.

Therefore, we strongly support the recommendations of both the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations.html) and CDC’s [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19/evidence-table-phase-1b-1c.html) as well as the National Academies of Sciences’ [final framework for COVID-19 vaccines allocation](https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25917/framework-for-equitable-allocation-of-covid-19-vaccine#resources), which all suggest prioritizing food industry essential workers for access to COVID-19 vaccinations after the initial phase of allocation. To continue to protect the food supply, we respectfully ask that [Michigan] follow these examples.

Again, thank you for your leadership, and we appreciate your consideration.  If you have any questions or would like additional information, please don’t hesitate to contact me at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,