



January 5, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden The White House Washington D.C., 20500 CC: Jeffrey Zients Counselor to the President

Dear Mr. President:

With COVID-19 cases surging nationwide, along with an influx of holiday travel and family gettogethers and the unanticipated high transmissibility of the Omicron variant, our nation stands at a pivotal point in the pandemic with the strength of the domestic supply chain to provide health products and essential goods. Both citizens and the economy rely on workers at every link of the supply chain.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the spread of Omicron poses the challenge of rapid disruption to America's critical supply infrastructure sectors. These sectors and the industries they represent depend on essential workers, all of whom contribute to ensure the health, safety and well-being of Americans every day.

Critical for sustaining this supply chain is the availably of accurate, readily available testing supplies to slow the spread of COVID-19, in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The undersigned organizations urge your administration to accelerate efforts to ensure test kit and supply availability and recognize the essential role of the industries represented below, by taking steps <u>that would prioritize testing availability and access</u> to tests for our nation's critical infrastructure. Doing so would prevent interruption to critical goods and services at a time when Americans need them the most and would help to protect those workers who remain on the front lines of the pandemic.

We are encouraged by efforts already underway within the administration to distribute testing supplies; nevertheless we know from the earliest days of the pandemic that the prioritization of testing supplies for essential workers is critical to preserving the functionality of the supply chain, upon which we all rely.

We are grateful for your attention to this need and your continued strong leadership and dedication to combatting the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Retailers Association American Bakers Association American Building Materials Alliance American Cleaning Institute American Feed Industry Association Association of Equipment Manufacturers Consumer Brands Association Consumer Healthcare Products Association



Corn Refiners Association Crop Life America Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. FMI - The Food Industry Association **Fragrance Creators Association** Fresh Produce Association of the Americas International Bottled Water Association National Aquaculture Association National Association of Beverage Importers Inc. National Automatic Merchandising Association National Confectioners Association National Council of Farmer Cooperatives National Grocers Association National Milk Producers Federation National Pork Producers Council National Restaurant Association National Turkey Federation North American Meat Institute North American Millers' Association North American Renderers Association Pet Food Institute **Responsible Industry for Sound Environment** The Fertilizer Institute Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America