

Sample Script

Outreach to Governors or State Health Officials

December 1, 2020

- 1) Thank you, Governor, [or appropriate official] for taking time to discuss this important issue.
- 2) We are grateful for your bold leadership in managing the pandemic within our state over the past 9 months. We appreciate the hard work you and your team have done to keep people safe.
- 3) With the expected release of COVID vaccines in the next several weeks you have the authority to prioritize the distribution of these vaccines to various groups of people.
- 4) (a) [For processing\manufacturing organizations] Our members have worked hard to keep their employees safe, but community spread still puts our employees at risk outside our facilities. If one employee does get sick, contract tracing may require quarantining other employees to prevent exposure, which can threaten our ability to keep plants operating. [Provide specific details- they will want to know how you are being impacted.]

(b) [For farm/commodity organizations] Our farmers depend upon the health and safety of processing and manufacturing workers to keep markets open and food moving from the farm to the grocery store.
- 5) If there is a disruption in our ability process raw agricultural products due to illnesses within our processing plants, such a disruption would affect food availability and prices across the entire supply chain all the way to the consumer.
- 6) This why the National Academies of Science and the CDC independently and meticulously determined front line agricultural workers are essential to the economy and recommended prioritizing these workers behind health care professionals and other vulnerable individuals. We ask that you follow these CDC & NAS guidelines by making frontline ag workers a priority in your state behind the obvious top tier recipients.
- 7) The nation is sick, tired and hungry. We cannot even give food away to the hungry if we can't process our agricultural products.
- 8) As you know, farmers have had a really tough time the past several years and any processing disruptions would add to the misery and threaten farm incomes even further.
- 9) We need your thoughtful consideration to make our workers a priority. We want to work with you in any way we can to protect our workers and our food supply chain. Thank you for your consideration.