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From: Julie Anna Potts  
Sent: Fri 4/3/2020 10:24:15 PM  
Subject: FW: Thank you  
Received: Fri 4/3/2020 10:24:00 PM  
FYI

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From: Julie Anna Potts  
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 5:23 PM  
To: **Sonny Perdue** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@usda.gov>  
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Subject: Thank you

Mr. Secretary, on behalf of the Meat Institute and our member CEOs who joined you on the call today, thank you again for your attention and for bringing your team together this afternoon to hear directly about the urgency of the employee absenteeism situation in the meat industry. I want to re-emphasize that the slowdowns and shutdowns you heard described today are significant and getting worse each day. Whether due to fear or a misguided idea that unemployment benefits are available simply because of fear of going to work, hearing a strong and consistent message from the President or Vice President like that delivered by the Governor of Nebraska yesterday is vital: being afraid of COVID-19 is not a reason to quit your job and you are not eligible for unemployment compensation if you do. We need that reinforcement throughout all levels of government. With your encouragement, we hope the White House will also tell the Governors about the very fragile situation we are in and ask them to reinforce that message as well.

We are grateful for all that you are doing and know that you are working to elevate this message and its visibility to our workforce. Our companies are doing as much as possible to alleviate the fear our workers are facing through communications about their efforts to keep them safe but on the job. We will continue to do all we can to encourage state and local officials to do the same. Please let us know how else we may assist you and your staff.

All my best, Julie Anna

Julie Anna Potts  
President & CEO  
North American Meat Institute

