To: Bill Westman
From: Sarah Little
Sent: Wed 4/15/2020 11:58:27 PM
Subject: RE: please approve quote for Smithfield

Press release from Sunday is below. He is intentionally scaring people.


Smithfield Foods To Close Sioux Falls, SD Plant Indefinitely Amid COVID-19

April 12, 2020

Share:

SMITHFIELD, Va., April 12, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Smithfield Foods, Inc. announced today that its Sioux Falls, SD facility will remain closed until further notice. The plant is one of the largest pork processing facilities in the U.S., representing four to five percent of U.S. pork production. It supplies nearly 130 million servings of food per week, or about 18 million servings per day, and employs 3,700 people. More than 550 independent family farmers supply the plant.

“The closure of this facility, combined with a growing list of other protein plants that have shuttered across our industry, is pushing our country perilously close to the edge in terms of our meat supply. It is impossible to keep our grocery stores stocked if our plants are not running. These facility closures will also have severe, perhaps disastrous, repercussions for many in the supply chain, first and foremost our nation’s livestock farmers. These farmers have nowhere to send their animals,” said Kenneth M. Sullivan, president and chief executive officer, for Smithfield.

“Unfortunately, COVID-19 cases are now ubiquitous across our country. The virus is afflicting communities everywhere. The agriculture and food sectors have not been immune. Numerous plants across the country have COVID-19 positive employees. We have continued to run our facilities for one reason: to sustain our nation’s food supply during this pandemic. We believe it is our obligation to help feed the country, now more than ever. We have a stark choice as a nation: we are either going to produce food or not, even in the face of COVID-19,” he concluded.

In preparation for a full shutdown, some activity will occur at the plant on Tuesday to process product in inventory, consisting of millions of servings of protein. Smithfield will resume operations in Sioux Falls once further direction is received from local, state and federal officials. The company will continue to compensate its employees for the next two weeks and hopes to keep them from joining the ranks of the tens of millions of unemployed Americans across the country.

According to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19. More information on Smithfield’s COVID-19 response can be found here.

From: Bill Westman
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:44 PM
To: Sarah Little
Subject: Re: please approve quote for Smithfield

Looks good.

From: Sarah Little
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:29:40 PM
To: Bill Westman
Subject: please approve quote for Smithfield

“Even in these unprecedented times, the US meat and poultry industry remains highly efficient at production and continues to meet demand for both domestic and export markets. As companies like Smithfield continue to operate under difficult circumstances, there will be food to put on the table for families around the world.”

Eh?

Sarah Little
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