

May 14, 2021

Via Electronic Mail

Melissa R. Bailey, Ph.D.
Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Room 2055-S, STOP 0201,
1400 Independence Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

Re: Docket Number: AMS-TM-21-0034

Dr. Bailey:

The undersigned agricultural trade and commodity organizations respectfully request that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) extend the deadline for the comment period on the “Notice; request for public comments” re: President Biden’s Executive Order on “America’s Supply Chains,” (Docket Number: AMS-TM-21-0034), by at least sixty (60) days. As the notice states, comments and information will assist USDA in preparing a report to be submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) within one year of the order’s issuance.

Considering the significance of the topic and the complexities and breadth of information requested, we are concerned that the existing comment deadline will not provide us with sufficient time to perform the level of analysis that this request for information warrants. USDA is also planning to use public comments received through this notice to study how stimulus relief programs and spending related to food supply chain resilience authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) can help to increase durability and resilience within the U.S. food supply. To this end, we may not have the time to produce helpful comments in the prescribed timeframe.

Additionally, the spring planting, farmed fish spawning and crop input application season is an incredibly active time of year for many of our organizations’ members and we want to include them in the information collection process. Our goal is to develop carefully considered and well-informed comment letters that will be constructive to USDA’s future efforts on supply chain activities, and we believe this additional time is necessary in order for us to achieve that goal. For these reasons, we respectfully request that USDA extend the deadline for comments on the request for information for at least an additional sixty (60) days.

If you have any questions, please contact Hunter Carpenter at (202) 595-1705 (hunter@aradc.org) or Lisa Kelley Van Doren at (202) 879-0811 (lvandoren@ncfc.org).

Respectfully Submitted,

Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference of ATA
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Mushroom Institute
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
California Specialty Crops Council
Consumer Brands Association
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Far West Agribusiness Association
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
FMI – the Food Industry Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
National Aquaculture Association
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Agricultural Employers
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Onion Association
National Pasta Association
National Pest Management Association
National Potato Council
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
North American Meat Institute
North American Millers' Association
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Renewable Fuels Association
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Apple Association
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Produce Association
United States Cattlemen's Association