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United States Senate

April 17, 2020

COMMITTEES:

COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Honorable Robert R. Redfield, M.D.
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Director Redfield:

I am writing to request that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) assign a liaison to work solely with the meat packing industry. The COVID-19 pandemic poses a real threat to the domestic and global food supply chain, as well as our nation's farmers, ranchers, and food processors. These are the people on the frontlines to ensure people have an affordable and safe food supply.

Many workers remain particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 outbreaks, especially those who work in processing and meat-packing plants, and even with the additional protections the plants have put in place. These outbreaks threaten not only the people who contract the virus but the food supply as a whole.

Across the country and in Colorado meat-packing plants have closed due to continual COVID-19 outbreaks. While these closures are well intentioned to limit the spread of the disease, they have the potential to create major economic disruptions. As the nation works to increase the accessibility of testing, providing protective gear to workers and other helpful actions can be taken.

One of these actions would be designating a specific meat packing industry liaison from the CDC. This liaison would help provide valuable resources to the industry and those workers who keep food on our shelves. Companies in this industry would benefit from having a direct partner in this crisis at CDC, working together to protect the workers and keep our food supply secure.

I appreciate the work you and your team have done and continue to do for the country. Thank you for the consideration of this request, and I look forward to working together to protect Coloradans and the nation.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator