



March 19, 2020

The Honorable Governor Eric Holcomb
200 W Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb:

As the fifth largest pork producing state marketing over \$1 billion worth of hogs annually, Indiana pork production is a critical piece of the system that supplies a steady supply of safe affordable protein to Indiana residents, the United States, and to the entire world.

In order to keep people fed and our animals safe and healthy, Indiana's pork producers want to delineate some essential functions that must continue even as the government considers additional measures to slow the spread of the virus.

First, workers both to our farms and processing plants must be able to travel to their jobs. If any one segment of our supply chain cannot function due to labor issues, the whole system cannot function. The veterinarians and other professionals that help us care for our pigs must also be allowed to move freely. When a supply chain involves live animals, restrictions on our labor force and other animal care professionals can create a serious animal welfare issue very quickly.

Transportation is also key. Pigs need to be transported between farms and into processing plants and product needs to move from our processing plants. Those are the obvious components. In addition to pigs and product, the pork industry also needs to be able to move feed, feed ingredients, animal health products, semen and other essentials without restriction.

Another less obvious component of our system is manure. The pork industry will continue to produce and manure will continue to be generated. The timing of the COVID-19 outbreak is occurring as we enter a period of time where manure needs to be land applied not only to make room for manure storage in our barns, but because the spring is a key time to land apply manure to cropland so that the nutrients can be utilized by the crops Indiana farmers will soon be planting.

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These components of our production system need to be designated as critical infrastructure and allowed to continue even if additional travel restrictions, curfews or shutdown orders are put in place. Not only are they important to the continuing function of our food supply chain, but with our focus on biosecurity to protect our own herds and workers and because our production facilities are typically removed from populated areas, much of our activity can take place at significant distances from the general population.

While livestock haulers have exemptions from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) waiver of Hours of Service (HOS) requirements many of the essential transportation components of our production system outlined above do not. We urge the State of Indiana to advocate at the federal level to expand the HOS waiver to include these other components.

From a state regulatory standpoint, our request is simple. Our state agencies should exercise enforcement discretion based on the extent to which the violation occurred as a result of the current COVID-19 challenge that is impacting everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua D. Trenary", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshua D. Trenary
Executive Director
Indiana Pork

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