

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2202

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue –

We write today on behalf of Michigan turkey farmers who are facing unprecedented market disruption as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Like many farmers and growers during this time, the turkey industry is in urgent need of assistance to stabilize the market and protect their livelihoods.

The United States turkey industry plays an essential role in feeding people around the world, creating jobs, and helping to maintain a strong economy. In Michigan, there are over 53 turkey farms that create and support thousands of jobs while contributing an annual economic impact of \$2.9 billion. Unfortunately, amid the Covid-19 emergency, the turkey industry has faced a massive reduction in demand, threatening the future of the industry.

We write to urge the USDA to provide necessary support and relief for the turkey industry through the recently announced Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Specifically, it is critical that turkey producers are considered eligible and receive direct financial assistance to account for lost demand and market supply chain issues.

Additionally, we also support all efforts to include the turkey industry in upcoming USDA commodity purchasing and distribution plans. In a time of great need amongst communities, it is critical that the USDA immediately begin purchasing and distributing available commodities such as turkey. By taking this action, the USDA and turkey growers can support increased demand at food banks, senior meal programs, and school nutrition programs, while solidifying the supply chain.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and your leadership during this uncertain time. We look forward to working with you to support our farmers and growers in Michigan and across America.

Sincerely,



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress

