

Statement to APC members to provide their customers

On behalf of our company and the American Peanut Council we want to reassure you of our commitment to you and your customers during this unprecedented time.

The United States peanut industry and members of the American Peanut Council are taking steps to ensure the health and safety of our employees while at the same time doing all that we can to provide reliable supplies of healthy and nutritious peanuts and peanut products. In fact, as with other types of emergencies, we anticipate an even greater demand for pantry staple items such as peanut butter. Our shelling, processing, and production facilities continue to put protocols in place to maintain operations and provide you, our customers, with the products consumers want.

According to the Department of Homeland Security's National Infrastructure Protection Plan, the food and agriculture sector is a "critical infrastructure industry," and we take that designation and our responsibilities very seriously. In addition, the nation's leading health and food and agriculture agencies are working with industry to ensure a safe and stable food supply.

Finally, under normal circumstances, there is strong demand for peanut products at food banks; peanut butter is consistently one of the most requested items. With many Americans now facing temporary economic instability, we anticipate increased demand for these products at food banks. While social distancing may make in-person drop offs challenging in some areas, we urge those who have the means to make peanut butter donations or cash contributions to their local food bank, Peanut Proud (www.peanutproud.org) and other charities to help those in need as our country comes together to overcome this health and economic crisis.