

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

**RE: Docket ID FSA-2020-0004**

Dear Secretary Perdue,

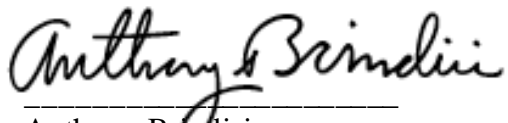
We write to express appreciation for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) leadership in efforts to sustain and promote U.S. agriculture production during the COVID-19 pandemic and to urgently request the inclusion of America's apple growers in the USDA's economic relief efforts.

We are proud to represent states with significant apple production. According to USDA data there are approximately 5,000 commercial apple growers in 32 states across the U.S. These producers are often the backbones of rural communities, producing about 250 million, 42-pound bushels of apples annually. Our apple farmers stimulate \$15 billion in total economic activity when including downstream storage, sorting, packing, shipping, marketing, exporting, and processing.

As with countless industries nationwide, the outbreak of COVID-19 has had a drastic and damaging effect on apple growers. Please find enclosed a formal Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) from the U.S. Apple Association and associated regional growing associations commenting on the USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). The enclosed sales price data on 43.8 million bushels shows that during the covered time period, apple price losses ranged anywhere from 6.5% to as much as 24.9%. Further, shipping volumes in the study period declined 24 percent. This steep price decline clearly makes apple growers eligible for CFAP payments, based on the USDA's requirement of a 5 percent-or-greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

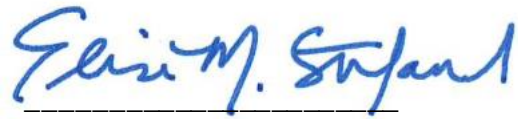
We urge you to use the funds Congress provided in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to help apple growers make it through this crisis so they may continue to provide American consumers with the number one most consumed fruit in the United States. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of our request, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations. We stand ready to assist in ensuring our nation's food supply remains secure during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,



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Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



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Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress

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Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

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Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress

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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

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Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

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Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

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Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress

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Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress

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John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress

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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

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John Katko  
Member of Congress

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Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

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Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

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Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

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Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

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TJ Cox  
Member of Congress

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Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

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Denver Riggleman  
Member of Congress