[ON COMPANY LETTERHEAD]

To Whom It May Concern,

As governments at all levels determine which businesses are essential to meet the basic needs of populations, all agree that ensuring the operation of the food supply chain is critical.

For the fresh fruit and vegetable sector, maintaining the continuity of the food supply involves not only the growers who produce the food and the retailers who make it available to the public, but also those companies/employees that pack, process or transport food and those that supply the packaging and farm inputs necessary to production.

 **Production and Shipment of Food Related to Critical Infrastructure**

1. In light of the federal government’s recognition of the critical role agriculture and agri-food play in ensuring the availability of food to Canadians, it is appropriate to allow this worker, [NAME OF WORKER] & [COMPANY], to proceed unimpeded to and from their place of employ in the federal interests of protecting Canada’s food supply chain.

2. The Government of Ontario has included agriculture and food production, as well as businesses that support their broader supply chains, in its List of Essential Workplaces: <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/3/list-of-essential-workplaces.html>. The Ontario Government also noted that “*for the purposes of this order, businesses include any for-profit, non-profit or other entity providing the goods and services described herein*”.

3. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-information-for-industry/?id=1584732749543> notes the agriculture and agri-food sector plays a critical role in distributing safe, high-quality food to Canadians. Maintaining the integrity of the agri-food supply chain during an emergency is essential for all Canadians. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is closely monitoring developments related to COVID-19 and its impacts on the Canadian agricultural industry. The Government of Canada is taking the necessary steps to ensure that producers and processors can continue to operate effectively and keep supply lines open, while informing industry of the latest developments.

4. On March 23rd, Prime Minister Trudeau announced support for farmers and agri-food businesses under Canada’s response to COVID-19<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/23/prime-minister-announces-support-farmers-and-agri-food-businesses>. Prime Minister Trudeau noted that Canadian farmers and food businesses work hard so Canadians have quality food on their grocery store shelves and kitchen tables. In these times of uncertainty, it is more important than ever to make sure that they are supported so they can continue providing the good, healthy food that nourishes our families.

 5. This document certifies that the bearer is an agricultural worker and/or food production worker involved in the production of field crops and/or the manufacture of human food and/or the distribution of agricultural products and other human food through wholesale, retail, and/or foodservice distribution within a sector that has been designated as essential to Canadians.

 Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact [NAME], [TITLE], [COMPANY] at [XXX-XXX-XXXX].

Certified by:

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