

JOSH HARDER  
10TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR

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

131 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4540—PHONE  
(202) 225-3402—FAX

4701 SISK ROAD, SUITE 202  
MODESTO, CA 95356  
(209) 579-5458—PHONE  
(209) 579-5028—FAX

[harder.house.gov](http://harder.house.gov)

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pence  
Chair  
White House Coronavirus Task Force  
Office of the Vice President  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Vice President Pence,

As the Chair of the Task Force entrusted with coordinating, preventing, and containing the spread of COVID-19 (or Coronavirus), it is critical to develop a knowledgeable team that can tackle the issue as effectively as possible. Given the impacts the Coronavirus pandemic will have on our nation's agricultural industry, including our food supply, I write to urge you to appoint to the Task Force a Task Force member focused exclusively on monitoring and mitigating the impacts of Coronavirus on farmers and developing policy solutions to those challenges.

During this time of uncertainty, it is important that Americans have access to food. Along with severe concerns related to health, people in the United States are worried that the empty shelves they see in their grocery stores will persist. Appointing a Task Force member that can knowledgeably advocate on behalf of our producers, consumers, and distributors to bolster an uninterrupted supply of food and products will ensure our families have access to the food they need to survive this pandemic.

To date, farmers in my District and across the country are already seeing the impacts of this virus – from losing the certainty of having a reliable and healthy workforce to ensuring they have the medical supplies they need—including Personal Protective Equipment—such as masks or gloves that ensure our farmers work in safe conditions. In California, Agriculture is already considered a critical infrastructure industry meaning it is exempt from the quarantine orders because it is deemed an essential industry needed to “strengthen and maintain secure, functioning, and resilient critical infrastructure.”

Our agriculture industry needs to be treated as an essential industry at the federal level and that is why I respectfully request that you include an Agriculture Task Force member to the Coronavirus Task Force. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Josh Harder

United States Representative (CA-10)