Re: Morning Star COVID-19 Pandemic Virus Outbreak Statement

To whom it may concern,

The Morning Star Packing Company is dedicated to the protection of its colleague, facilities, and resources and is committed to ensuring that our company can continue all critical business processes during a Pandemic Virus Outbreak. Our primary focus during this period is colleague health and safety, as well as maintaining the integrity and efficiency of the domestic and global food supply chain.

The Morning Star Pandemic Outbreak Plan was activated on March 11, 2020 following the WHO declaration of global pandemic due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We understand that now, more than ever, our contribution to the food supply chain is of the most critical importance.

Our plan consists of:
- Cross functional team of critical colleagues throughout the supply chain in Safety, Sales, Administration, Logistics, Distribution, Customer Service and QA/QC
- Identification of critical inputs, as well as primary and secondary vendor contacts
- Exposure determination risk assessment by job function/role
- Internal and external communication plan and responsibilities
- Training and awareness for personal safety and risk exposure mitigation
- Work restrictions for affected colleagues
- Stocking of critical health protective supplies and PPE (sanitizers) as well as enhanced cleaning procedures
- Travel restrictions

On March 19, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state-wide executive order for California to stay at home to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The order provides exemption for continued operation of 16 critical infrastructures identified by the federal government. The Morning Star Packing Company, a food processor, falls under the exemption as our business is a critical infrastructure component. During this period we maintain shipments to our customers as well as the preparation for the upcoming 2020 production season, estimated to start as scheduled July, 2020.

From the text of the executive order:

“I order that Californians working in these 16 critical infrastructure sectors may continue their work because of the importance of these sectors to Californian’s health and wellbeing.”

“The supply chain must continue, and Californians must have access to such necessities as food, prescriptions and health care. When people need to leave their homes or places of residence, whether to obtain or perform the functions above, or to otherwise facilitate authorized necessary activities, they should at all times practice social distancing.”

Thank you,

The Morning Star Packing Company