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GrowthEnergy.org

December 11, 2020

Robert R. Redfield, M.D.
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Redfield,

With COVID-19 infections rising at alarming rates, our industry stands ready to assist and safely distribute vaccines across the nation. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to analyze best practices for vaccine distribution, we urge the agency to include workers supporting ethanol and biofuel production into the phase two priority list¹.

As a top priority to receive vaccination, we owe a debt of gratitude to frontline healthcare professionals and first responders who have provided life-saving care to communities ravaged by COVID-19. We also strongly agree with CDC guidance that the elderly, those with health complications, and at-risk populations that are especially vulnerable to the virus should be first in line to receive vaccination treatment. As availability of the vaccine increases and allows for phase two eligibility, we ask that the CDC adhere to the August advisory issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency that workers supporting ethanol and biofuel production, refining, and distribution be considered an essential infrastructure workforce².

Ethanol and biofuel production have played several critical economic roles throughout the pandemic. Biofuel facilities provide thousands of steady, good-paying jobs in rural country and keep smaller communities afloat. Liquid fuel production enables light-duty vehicles and our transportation fleet to keep our economy running, dried distillers grains feed our farmer's poultry and livestock, and carbon dioxide is used within several critical supply chains. Most importantly, ethanol plants supply roughly 40 percent of the nation's captured carbon dioxide, the key raw material used to produce dry ice and an essential product which keeps COVID-19 vaccinations at freezing temperatures needed for storage.

To keep these critical components of our economy intact, we urge the CDC to designate our ethanol and biofuel workforce as phase two priority personnel for vaccines. We stand ready to work with you and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily Skor
CEO, Growth Energy

¹ CDC Vaccine Recommendations, Dec. 3, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations-process.html>

² DHS CISA Advisory Memorandum on Ensuring Critical Infrastructure Workers Ability to Work During the COVID-19 Response, Aug. 18, 2020: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v2_0.pdf