

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2020

Dear CEOs of Major Food Retailers:

In recent days, our constituents have experienced something unprecedented in recent American history: empty grocery shelves across our country. While the supermarket industry has successfully restocked its shelves in the aftermath of other emergencies that increased demand for staple foods and household goods, the coronavirus crisis is unique. Unlike previous disasters such as hurricanes which impact particular regions, COVID-19 is impacting *every* community in America all at once.

During this critical chapter, Americans are depending on supermarkets to deliver essential nutritional needs at an affordable cost. Fortunately, our country has an abundance of food and the probability of shortages is extraordinarily slim. However, during this pandemic, we must be prepared for any and all unforeseen challenges. Therefore, we write to you to request a comprehensive description of how each of your companies plan to keep the shelves stocked, even in the face of potential supply chain disruptions.

Keeping the shelves stocked is only one part of the equation, however. As Americans face the largest wave of lay-offs since the Great Recession, it is more important than ever that families can afford nutritious meals and necessary household goods. This is particularly true since we are in the midst of a public health emergency that requires Americans to maintain healthy diets and good hygiene practices. Accordingly, we are also seeking a commitment from each of your companies that you will not raise the price of any staple foods (such as fresh produce, meat or poultry products, canned soups, and grains) and in-demand household products (such as hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and paper towels), except to the extent your costs increase or you currently sell such item for below cost, for at least the next 60 days.

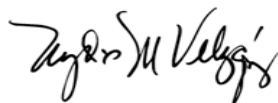
Right now, Americans are stockpiling groceries because they fear for what comes next. Your industry must offer Americans the assurances they need to rest easy. By providing Congress with a comprehensive plan regarding how you intend to keep the shelves stocked, and promising the American people that prices on key goods will not increase during this crisis, America's food retailers would send a strong message that we are all in this together and that we will get through this.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Elanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress