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April 22, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 2250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Thank you for developing the Coronavirus Assistance program to alleviate impacts to farmers and ranchers and ensuring America's food supply remain safe and accessible for all. The implementation of the program will be vital in supporting our farming community as well as settling concerns around food supply shortages.

USDA has been at the forefront of ensuring Americans have access to healthy foods such as peanut butter by including it as an essential food in all of Food and Nutrition Service nutritional programs. Peanut butter, an American staple, provides essential vitamins and minerals for persons at every stage of life; from pre-natal to adulthood. Peanut butter is a great source of protein that has been used to treat malnourishment globally. Equally as important, regular consumption of peanuts and peanut butter has also been associated with reducing risk of predominant diseases like heart disease and diabetes which are also illnesses prone to COVID-19 death. I encourage you, in the implementation of the Coronavirus Assistance program, to consider purchasing peanut and peanut butter products. Peanut and peanut butter products are shelf stable, affordable, fits well with any dietary regime, making it an excellent product for most pantries.

Again, I hope peanuts and peanut butter products receive proper consideration as the Coronavirus Assistance program is implemented.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress