To: All Hearthside Food Solutions Employees and Vendor Partners

From: Chuck Metzger, Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 19, 2020

Re: DHS Tier 1 Critical Infrastructure Industry Designation

In the case of a regional edict or specific targeted inquiry regarding a potential shut-down order at any of the locations where ***Hearthside Food Solutions***, or our valued contractors and suppliers operate, please share with local authorities that we self-identify as a company which ***meets the criteria*** and accountabilities for ongoing operations as intended by the ***Critical Infrastructure Industry principles established by the Department of Homeland Security as a Tier 1 Critical Infrastructure Entity.***

***Hearthside*** provides essential products and critical infrastructure for the manufacture, packaging and distribution of critical food items that are sold to all the major food companies in the United States.These products are sold to a wide variety of retailers such as ***Walmart, Sam’s Club, Costco, Albertsons, Kroger, Meijer***, and many more national and regional grocery chains. Hearthside has a critical function in the food supply chain and an important relationship with these organizations.

***Hearthside*** facilities, and our 10,000 employees nationwide, manufacture, package and distribute vital food products. These essential products rely on the availability of our workforce, both regular and temporary employees. They also rely on safe and efficient transportation to pick up and deliver our products; and ensure availability of supplies we require to manufacture our products.

Based on the information received today from the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America published by the government, we are instructed: “***If you work in a Critical Infrastructure Industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule***.” Once again, we self-identify as falling into this category as is evidenced from the sampling of key customers and product segments in the above supply chain with which ***Hearthside Food Solutions*** has a direct and critical relationship.

Sincerely,

Chuck Metzger

Chief Executive Officer

Hearthside Food Solutions