Smithfield

Good food. Responsibly.®

June 15, 2020

Dear Moms Across America and Consumers Who Care About Food Safety:

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the primary agency responsible for regulating meat, including pork. As such, your comments regarding the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are not applicable to our company.

Meat and poultry livestock are not genetically modified organisms (GMOs). However, most livestock feed grains (including corn and soybeans) in the U.S. use GMO technologies. All GMO crops have been evaluated by a host of regulatory agencies, including the FDA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as many scientific organizations, and have been found to be safe for people and animals to eat. There is no evidence that animals are affected by eating grain from plants with genetically modified characteristics. None of our products are labeled as "Non-GMO." At Smithfield, we monitor the dialogue about GMOs and stay current with the latest scientific research.

We are committed to providing clean food labels and being transparent in doing so. Clean labels provide simpler, shorter, easier to understand lists of ingredients. Our online Glossary of Ingredients provides definitions of more than 100 ingredients found in our foods. In our continuing effort to develop products that are simple while maintaining the utmost food safety and quality standards, we are constantly incorporating new and proven technologies in the areas of food ingredients and processes. In our efforts to make familiar products while using common ingredients, we are developing foods that remove conventional ingredients such as lactates, nitrites and erythorbates, and replacing them with ingredients produced from vinegar, celery juice and cherry powder.

Pertaining to gene editing, it's important to note that our robust genetic program does not currently include gene editing. We do not add or manipulate genes. The science involved in gene editing is still evolving. The company's focus remains on the development and improvement of its products through careful selective breeding and genetic research. Smithfield will continue to monitor and study scientific research on gene-editing technology for potential future opportunities.

On the topic of "reducing the food and climate crisis," in 2016, Smithfield Foods became the first major protein company to adopt a far-reaching carbon reduction goal to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the United States 25% by 2025 across our entire supply chain. We followed this announcement in 2017 with the launch of Smithfield Renewables, our platform to accelerate our industry leading GHG reduction and renewable energy initiatives. A wide range of projects are underway to help us meet our goal, including developing "manure-to-energy" projects at 90 percent of our hog finishing spaces in North Carolina, Utah, and Virginia and nearly all hog finishing spaces in Missouri over the next

decade, and partnering to create a fertilizer from hog manure that outperforms traditional commercial-grade fertilizer.

With approximately 15 to 20 percent of our carbon footprint originating from the feed we purchase, helping farmers improve their crop yields while reducing emissions is critical to helping us reach our 2025 GHG reduction goal. Although we don't own the grain farms that produce our animal feed, we collaborated with Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) for several years to help farmers in our domestic supply chain optimize fertilizer use and minimize related runoff on their farms. By choosing the right crops, utilizing more efficient fertilizer application, and adopting best practices—such as cover crops—farmers can improve soil health, improve water quality, and reduce GHG emissions—all while increasing profits. Over the last several years, we have developed a variety of projects that boost the performance of our grain suppliers and minimize carbon impacts within our supply chain. At the end of 2018, 80% of grain purchased by Smithfield came from approximately 560,000 acres where efficient fertilizer and soil health practices were implemented.

Specific to our charitable initiatives, Smithfield Foods is heavily committed to the fight against hunger, and we regularly donate to food banks, school nutrition programs, disaster relief efforts and community outreach programs across the country to help ensure food access among our neighbors in need. For the past 11 years, our Helping Hungry Homes® initiative has been at the heart of these efforts.

In 2019 alone, Smithfield Foods donated more than $30 million in cash and in-kind contributions to support the communities where our employees work, live and raise their families. Just recently, we announced a donation of more than 40 million servings of protein to Feeding America and their national network of food banks to help those struggling with food insecurity in the wake of COVID-19.

As outlined in the numerous examples above, Smithfield Foods' commitment to food safety, the environment and giving back to our communities is clear. From farm to facility to fork, we rely on rigorous systems and exacting procedures to deliver superior products. Our approach underpins the trust our customers and consumers have in our company and brands, and the pride we take in serving our products to our own families.

Sincerely,

Keira Lombardo
Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Compliance
Smithfield Foods, Inc.