

**STATEMENT  
BY  
APPLE PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION  
FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
MAY 9, 2019**

Mr. Chairman, my name is Maggie Gentile, and I am pleased to represent the Apple Processors Association (APA), an industry trade association representing companies and farmer-owned cooperatives that manufacture quality apple products from whole apples. These APA members produce a majority of the nation's freshly processed apple products.

Our association was founded in 1987 to represent and enhance the unique responsibilities of companies that process and market food products from whole apples, working closely with the food industry and government regulators. Each of our members grows a portion of their apples in local orchards. Our suppliers coordinate with their fellow association members to ensure convenient and safe packaging and storage capabilities for these food products.

We are pleased to provide the federal government with the highest quality and nutritious apple juice, apple sauce, and specialty apple products for their feeding programs, to include WIC, school lunches, SNAP, and related initiatives. Our members carefully pasteurize their juice products, hot-fill their food containers, and perform continuous research and food safety checks to ensure safety and nutritional value.

Because our food products are processed fresh and packaged in shelf-stable containers, they are ideal for remaining safe and nutritious for long periods of time. As our government improves and enhances its nutritional guidelines, it is important to support and recommend processed food products, especially for families without adequate refrigerated storage.

We ask that this advisory committee consider and support shelf-stable food products for food and feeding programs of the federal government. Thank you.

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The Apple Processors Association (APA) was founded in 1987, and is a national association of companies and farmer-owned cooperatives that manufacture quality apple products from whole apples. Members include apple grower/processor cooperatives and companies, along with suppliers to the industry. APA processor members each grow a portion of the apples they process in local orchards. APA members produce a majority of the nation's applesauce, apple juice, and specialty products.

All members of APA stress quality and safety in their food processing operations. They pasteurize their juice products, and hot-fill their food containers, reinforcing their commitment to quality and safety during their food processing operations. APA has its headquarters in the heart of the Nation's Capital, providing a highly visible and effective voice for the apple products industry. Its experienced staff works daily with Congress, federal regulatory agencies, such as FDA, EPA, and USDA, and major allied food and industry organizations. More information can be found at [www.AppleProcessors.org](http://www.AppleProcessors.org).