WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King today made the following statement regarding plans by Smithfield Foods to close its John Morrell & Co. pork plant in Sioux City in 90 days.

“The John Morrell fresh pork plant has been one of the largest employers in Sioux City for decades. The announcement of its impending closing not only affects the 1,400 employees at the plant, but also other area businesses that serve this facility. Pork producers are also affected at a very tough time in their industry since they will lose a competitive market that is centrally located in the tri-state area.

“Given the current economic crisis, it will take the efforts of all local, state and federal agencies to assist the workers losing their jobs. I and my staff stand ready to assist those affected.

“I am confident in the resilience of western Iowans. It will serve us well as we deal with the loss of a major employer in the Siouxland area.”