

Smithfield not alone on environment

Thank you for your Jan. 9 editorial on Smithfield Foods, pork producer, responding to climate change by greening its operations and its supply chains.

The best part of your editorial was an acknowledgement that although Smithfield Foods will get more revenue and lower its expenses by cutting its emissions, it also will become "a more responsible company." What more could any of us want from our employers, food producers or corporate neighbors than that they strive to be the most responsible, upstanding community member?

Readers might appreciate learning about Robert Wood Johnson, founder of Johnson and Johnson, who wrote in 1943 that the company must be responsible to: customers first (including the doctors and medical workers who used the company's products), company employees, managers, local communities, and the whole world community, with responsibility to shareholders their final responsibility. Johnson wrote that while "business must make a sound profit," much more is required from the company: "We must be good citizens - support good works and charities and bear our fair share of taxes. We must encourage civic improvements and better health and education. We must maintain in good order the property we are privileged to use, protecting the environment and natural resources."

For more information on how your company can be a more responsible community member, please contact Citizens' Climate Lobby.

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