

March 25, 2020

Dear Mr. President, Governors, Mayors and other local elected officials:

We recognize and appreciate the aggressive steps that are being taken to respond to the threats of the COVID-19 virus. We represent the manufacturers, distributors and supply chain of the products and raw materials that ensure public health and safety during these times of a pandemic. Protecting our workforce, their families and our communities are our top priorities.

Unfortunately, there are well-intentioned actions being taken at the state and local levels that may fundamentally impede or otherwise threaten the supply of critical products. It is imperative that the federal, state and local governments come together with uniform definitions of “critical infrastructure” making clear what manufacturers must continue to operate, as well as take seriously the need to transport those products and have the workforce available to keep operations running. Curfews that do not consider transportation and workforce needs could quickly become significant barriers to not only supply chains, but also actual supplies. Accordingly, we are asking for the following actions to be coordinated in the most expedient fashion:

1. States should agree to directly adopt the definition of “critical infrastructure” as defined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a floor and commit to keep these critical manufacturing facilities open across the nation. Follow guidance from the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to identify essential critical infrastructure workers during COVID-19 response. Attempt to coordinate all states and localities to achieve as uniform a definition and consistent application as possible, recognizing the need for states or localities to provide broader definitions of critical infrastructure based on their own state or local circumstances.
2. Commit to not creating any artificial barriers to the transportation of these products and work in a coordinated fashion to ensure the safe shipment of goods from manufacturing facilities to retailers.
3. Ensure that any curfews do not impede a healthy workforce from getting to and from manufacturing facilities and retailers during all necessary hours of operation.

As you consider national, statewide or local measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, we respectfully request that our industries be consistently designated essential and permitted to maintain operations throughout this challenging time, using the DHS definition as a minimum guide to the fullest extent practicable.

Our member companies are proud to support the ongoing national response to COVID-19. We will continue to act responsibly and limit the spread of the virus at our facilities. We ask that those facilities, workforces and their supply chains continue to operate uninterrupted so that we may provide the strongest possible response for the American public.

Sincerely,

Adhesive and Sealant Council  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Aluminum Association  
American Boiler Manufacturers Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Cleaning Institute  
American Coatings Association, Inc.  
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute  
American Foundry Society  
American Frozen Food Institute  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers  
American Hardwood Export Council  
American Mold Builders Association  
American Pet Products Association  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Spice Trade Association  
American Supply Association  
American Walnut Manufacturers Association  
American Wood Council  
AMT-The Association for Manufacturing Technology  
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers  
Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association  
Beer Institute  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Can Manufacturers Institute  
Compressed Gas Association, Inc.  
Consumer Brands Association  
Consumer Healthcare Products Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Decorative Hardwood Association  
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
EPS Industry Alliance  
Flavor & Extract Manufacturers Association  
Flexible Packaging Association  
Fragrance Creators Association  
Glass Packaging Institute  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Hardwood Federation  
Hardwood Manufacturers Association  
Household & Commercial Products Association

INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry  
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association  
Independent Petroleum Association of America  
Industrial Fasteners Institute  
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
International Association of Color Manufacturers  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
International Institute of Ammonia Refrigeration  
International Wood Products Association  
IPC  
Kentucky Forest Industries Association  
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association  
Methanol Institute  
Missouri Forest Products Association  
National Association for Surface Finishing  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Automatic Merchandising Association  
National Beer Wholesalers Association  
National Confectioners Association  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
National Grocers Association  
National Hardwood Lumber Association  
National Lime Association  
National Mining Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pest Management Association  
National Propane Gas Association  
National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc.  
National Tooling and Machining Association  
National Turkey Federation  
National Waste & Recycling Association  
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association  
National Wood Flooring Association  
North American Die Casting Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North Carolina Forestry Association  
Northeastern Loggers Association  
Pennsylvania Forest Products Association  
Personal Care Products Council  
Pet Food Institute  
Pet Industry Distributors Association  
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association  
Plastics Industry Association  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association  
Portland Cement Association  
Precision Machined Products Association  
Precision Metalforming Association  
PVC Pipe Association  
Railway Tie Association  
Refrigerating Engineers and Technicians Association  
Single Ply Roofing Industry  
SNAC International  
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates  
Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute  
Tennessee Forestry Association  
Travel Goods Association  
Treated Wood Council  
United Fresh Produce Association  
U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association  
Vinyl Institute  
Vinyl Siding Institute  
Virginia Forestry Association  
Warrior Protection and Readiness Coalition  
Western Hardwood Association  
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America  
Wood Component Manufacturers Association  
World Pet Association