April 3, 2020

Office of Governor Greg Abbott
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Governor Abbott:

Thank you for your leadership as we face the COVID-19 virus and its impact throughout Texas. As representatives from manufacturing, importing, distribution, supply chain, and labor, we share your desire to ensure public health and safety. Our members are working hard to provide the products, manpower, and raw materials needed during this global pandemic, which is why we need your help to protect our workforce, their families and our communities.

We are writing to you and other Governors to respectfully request your proactive leadership in providing nationally uniform recognition of core critical infrastructure. Many states already adopted this common definition, which is based on guidance developed by the DHS Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency. As you weigh what other measures you may take in the fight against COVID-19, this step will enable the smooth flow of essential products and services within your state and across state lines required to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and maintain public health and well-being in Texas.

Specifically, to the extent you have not already done so, we request that you issue appropriate directives to:

1. Adopt the definition of “critical infrastructure” as defined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a floor (with additional critical infrastructure designations that the unique characteristics or needs of your state may warrant) and prohibit state and local authorities from impeding the lawful operation of business operations that supply, operate, distribute or are otherwise part of critical infrastructure.
2. Adopt as official state policy the guidance from the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to identify essential critical infrastructure workers during COVID-19 response.
3. Ensure no COVID-19 related requirements within your state impede the lawful transportation of critical infrastructure products or movement of critical infrastructure personnel.
4. Establish a central authority within your state to coordinate all state and localities to facilitate understanding and smooth adoption of your COVID-19 directives.

Our members are proud to support the ongoing national response to COVID-19 and are eager to work with you. 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 & Food Transporters Conference
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Boiler Manufacturers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Cleaning Institute
American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute
American Feed Industry Association
American Foundry Society
American Frozen Food Institute
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Honey Producers Association
American Mold Builders Association
American Pet Products Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Spice Trade Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Supply Association
American Trucking Association
Animal Health Institute
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Association
Association for Manufacturing Technology
Beer Institute
Business Roundtable
Can Manufacturers Institute
Compressed Gas Association
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Decorative Hardwoods Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.
EPS Industry Alliance
Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association
Flexible Packaging Association
Food Marketing Institute
Fragrance Creators Association
Household and Commercial Products Association
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Independent Petroleum Association of America
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils
International Bottled Water Association
International Dairy Foods Association
Livestock Marketing Association
Missouri Forest Products Association
National Association of Beverage Importers, Inc.
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Automatic Merchandising Association
National Chicken Council
National Confectioners Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grocers Association
National Insulation Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pest Management Association
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Tank Truck Carriers
National Tooling and Machine Association
National Turkey Federation
National Wood Pallet & Container Association
North American Building Trades Unions
North American Die Casting Association
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
North American Meat Institute
North American Millers Association
North American Renderers Association
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Personal Care Products Council
Pet Food Institute
Pet Industry Distributors Association
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Precision Machined Products Association
Precision Metalforming Association
PVC Pipe Association
Railway Tie Association
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment
Rio Grande River Valley Sugar Growers
Single Ply Roofing Industry
SNAC International
Southern Crop Association
Structural Insulated Panel Association
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Sorghum Association
Treated Wood Council
United Fresh Produce Association
US Tire Manufacturers Association
Vinyl Siding Institute
Waterways Council, Inc
Western Hardware Association
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America
Wood Component Manufacturers Association
World Pet Association