

Critical Infrastructure Supply Chain Council

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