March 26, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Michael Pence  
Vice President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

On behalf of the American Cleaning Institute (ACI), I am writing to urge the White House Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Task Force to remove obstacles to make available supplies of ethanol for hand sanitizers needed by critical infrastructure sectors including Healthcare/Public Health and Food/Agriculture. We specifically request the issuance of guidance prioritizing availability of ethanol for these critical sectors.

ACI is specifically aware of a shortage of regulatory graded (i.e., food grade) ethanol for making hand sanitizers. Alcohol hand sanitizers play a critical role in protecting front line workers in hospitals, health care, food production facilities and food retail establishments.

ACI member companies have increased production and are operating around the clock to produce these preventative products to protect individuals from the spread of COVID-19 and to meet the dramatic expansion in demand. The ACI goal remains getting finished cleaning, sanitizing or disinfecting product critical to combating Novel Coronavirus to market and increasing the supply of ingredients to accomplish this goal.

As the nation’s leading association representing the cleaning products value chain, ACI and its members are dedicated to ensuring that consumers and customers have access to critical cleaning products. ACI serves the growth and innovation of the U.S. cleaning products industry by advancing the health and quality of life of people and protecting our planet. ACI achieves this through a continuous commitment to sound science and being a credible voice for the $59 billion cleaning products industry.

We appreciate your consideration and commitment to address these issues during this challenging time. ACI and its members are committed to working with you to address this critical issue. Please contact me or Douglas Troutman of the ACI team at dtroutman@cleaninginstitute.org if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hockstad  
President & Chief Executive Officer