



american cleaning institute®

November 17, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Jerry Moran
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science
& Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
& Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Moran and Blumenthal,

On behalf of the American Cleaning Institute (ACI), I am pleased to provide the following in response to a public hearing before the Committee scheduled for today entitled 'Examining the American Manufacturing Industry's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.'

As part of the Critical Infrastructure Essential Workforce, our members face an ongoing challenge responding to the unprecedented increase in demand for cleaning products brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. The proper use of cleaning products has been crucial to public health during this time, and cleaning product manufacturers continue to work around the clock to provide these trusted and in-demand products that are an essential part of daily hygiene practices in home, healthcare and commercial settings nationwide.

ACI is proud of how our industry has stepped up by increasing production, providing families with resources on effective cleaning and hygiene practices, giving back to communities and upholding commitments to corporate responsibility and sustainability. While the crisis has brought terrible consequences for individuals and communities everywhere, it has also reinforced the value and need for the cleaning products industry to work toward our long-term, ultimate goals of helping people lead healthier, happier lives and building a vibrant and sustainable future.

First and foremost, protections needed to be put in place to safeguard employees' health and safety, while production accelerated and was kept running 24/7 to keep pace with demand. Manufacturers had to prioritize for critical needs and shift production lines and staff resources. Supply chains were stretched, leading to the need to overcome major raw material, ingredient, packaging and pump shortages as other industries became overwhelmed by the demand or limited in production capacity due to the pandemic's restrictions.

Cleaning product companies ramped up production: but even with this massive mobilization, people across the U.S. experienced product shortages and empty shelves in shops and supermarkets. Companies

had to be creative in finding solutions to problems they never previously faced. The American Cleaning Institute (ACI) released a new report, [Rising to an Unprecedented Challenge](#), which outlines the actions industry leaders have taken in response to the increased demand for cleaning and hand hygiene products and the urgent need to reduce the spread of the virus in hospitals, public transit systems and other public spaces.

To help business across the country navigate a successful re-opening, the American Cleaning Institute rolled out new resources through the [Healthy Returns program](#). Adapted from public health recommendations, the free online toolkit provides guidance and checklists containing easy to understand reminders on hygiene and cleaning that are crucial to keeping the workplace healthy and safe.

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.

ACI and its members are committed to working with you to address critical supply chain demand issues. Please contact me at dtroutman@cleaninginstitute.org if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Troutman', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Douglas Troutman

General Counsel, Corporate Secretary & Senior Vice President, Government Affairs