

March 23, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P.
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
Via email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) represent the companies that manufacture off-highway equipment for the agriculture, construction, forestry, and utility sectors. AEM represents more than 100 members across Canada that support more than 149,000 workers and contributes \$45 billion a year to the national economy.

We thank you for your government's efforts to protect Ontario's residents and businesses during these unprecedented times. Like you, we take very seriously the health and safety of our employees and communities, as well as safeguarding the country's availability to equipment.

As we continue to confront the ongoing and evolving challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to consider the essential role that equipment manufacturers play in guaranteeing a steady supply of Canadian-produced food, fiber, and feed, maintaining our nation's roads and bridges and other important infrastructure assets, and keeping the nation's energy infrastructure secure and resilient. At a time when farmers are preparing for a new planting season, contractors are looking to build and maintain critical infrastructure assets, and utilities are working to keep homes and hospitals powered, we have an obligation to ensure that they have access to the equipment and parts they need to perform these functions.

To that end, it is vital that equipment manufacturers are considered essential to the economic continuity of the Province of Ontario as you continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and take steps to protect the health and safety of all Ontario's workers and residents.

Accordingly, we hereby request that, as your government considers further initiatives to contain the severity and duration of the spread of COVID-19, the Cabinet ensures that Ontario's farmers, construction, forestry and utility companies continue to have access to the equipment and parts they need during this time of crisis. Specifically, provisions under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to designate persons to render services be enacted such that AEM member companies in the sectors previously noted be deemed essential. We would note that similar provisions have been enacted in the U.S.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers