March 23, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Via email: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

I want to thank you for your government’s efforts to protect Canada’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.

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.

Let me assure you that, as Canadian society is mobilized in the fight against COVID-19, Canada’s equipment manufacturers are prepared to bring their ingenuity, industrial strength and resources to bear. Our member companies are playing an essential role 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 Canada as you continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and take steps to protect the health and safety of all Canada’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 Canada’s farmers, construction, forestry and utility companies continue to have access to the equipment and parts they need during this time of crisis. We would note that similar provisions have been enacted in the United States.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers