

March 25, 2020

Honorable Christopher C. Krebs  
Director  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane  
Washington, D.C. 20528-0380

Dear Director Krebs:

On behalf of our more than 1,000 member companies, thank you for the aggressive steps that you have taken to respond to the threats of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the recent guidance on identification of essential critical infrastructure workers. We are grateful that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recognize the essential contributions of equipment manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors to the U.S. economy and the wellbeing of our country.

Despite the leadership and guidance provided by CISA and DHS, the inconsistent and at times conflicting directives and guidance by state and local officials fundamentally threaten the industry's ability to keep operations running and workers on the job. Equipment manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors are not only the bedrock of communities across the country, but they play a critical role in guaranteeing a steady supply of U.S.-produced food, fiber, feed, and fuel, maintaining our nation's roads and bridges and other important infrastructure assets, and keeping the nation's energy infrastructure secure and resilient.

As you consider additional measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, we respectfully request that equipment manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors be consistently designated as essential, permitted to maintain operations throughout this challenging time, and that you make this unmistakably clear to state and local officials as they continue to issue their own directives in the days and weeks ahead.

Our industry is proud to support the ongoing national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to act responsibly and limit the spread of the virus at manufacturing facilities. We ask that those facilities as well as their suppliers and distributors continue to operate uninterrupted so that we can keep contractors on job sites, farmers in the field, homes and hospitals powered, and the 2.8 million men and women of our industry employed.

Sincerely,



Dennis Slater  
President  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers