



March 17, 2020

Mr. Bill McBride
Executive Director
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
U.S. Conference of Mayors
1620 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. Matthew Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties
660 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities
660 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20001

RE: COVID-19 Emergency Declarations

Dear Messrs. McBride, Cochran, Chase and Anthony,

As the nation's leaders consider emergency measures to protect the American people from the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, our organizations respectfully urge your members to ensure that state and local policies safeguard the ability of essential businesses to continue operations.

Our organizations recognize that it is now necessary to curtail and even suspend many aspects of commerce to slow the spread of the virus in order to protect the nation's most vulnerable and to prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed. Such decisive and in many cases unprecedented action will ultimately mitigate the direct and indirect economic harm caused by the spreading disease.

We respectfully urge the careful implementation of policies that restrict movement and business operations to ensure that businesses that provide critical support for public care and well-being are excluded from such restrictions. Specifically, as state and local governments define essential activities that will be protected, it is important to also safeguard businesses that enable those activities to be conducted in a safe and efficient manner.

Essential tasks rely on safe and efficient transportation. Government vehicle fleets (local, state, and federal) and other essential personnel (doctors, nurses, healthcare provider, grocers etc.) depend on businesses that support the safe operation of the transportation sector. Public and private transportation services are necessary to ensure the public may complete essential trips, including purchasing food and medicine or caring for loved ones. Businesses that provide the support or supplies necessary to operate must therefore also be deemed essential.

Motor vehicle supply and repair facilities provide vehicle and roadside services essential to maintaining critical operations and the flow of commerce. In addition to gas stations, it is imperative that motor vehicle supply, motor vehicle repair and related facilities be encouraged to support the safe and efficient operation of transportation services. Community members providing critical care and services should be assured they won't be impeded by a flat tire or vehicle problems that could be quickly addressed by motor vehicle care professionals. Our industry stands ready to help ensure aid can reach the places it is most needed.

We understand your organizations are doing everything possible to support the nation's state and local leaders in this important time. We respectfully urge you to help coordinate state and local policies that take into account the important role of motor vehicle supply and repair facilities and ensure these essential businesses remain available to support the work of other crucial businesses.

Sincerely,



Anne Forristall Luke
President and CEO
U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association



Chris Spear
President and CEO
American Trucking Associations



Bill Hanvey
President and CEO
Auto Care Association



Kristy Babb
Executive Director
Automotive Oil Change Association



Bill Long
President and CEO
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association



Roy Littlefield
CEO
Tire Industry Association