

Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association

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May 8, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker,

Thank you for your leadership and tireless commitment to protecting the citizens of Illinois during the COVID-19 pandemic. Collectively, members of the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)¹ employ almost 40,000 Illinois residents. We understand the public health issues facing Illinois and we have been proud to assist in the industry's response through the manufacture of personal protective equipment (PPE) and components and parts for ventilators and other essential medical devices.

Through the Original Equipment Suppliers Association, MEMA has worked directly with automakers to develop recommended Health and Safety Resources for all suppliers. These resources are based on CDC guidance and World Health Organization publications and cover fundamental topics of workplace safety: education and communication, prescreening of personnel, social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing protocols, and other necessary steps. We understand that the re-opening of the economy demands that companies safely bring employees back to work in controlled environments, and suppliers are committed to that.

The Illinois supplier community is eager to meet the needs of its OEM customers and the American public. As we look to the future, delays in re-opening facilities would increase liquidity risk for suppliers and jeopardize long-term capital investment and employment for Illinois. It is critical we collaborate to ensure a strong economic recovery for the state and the industry.

We ask you to amend the May 1, 2020 executive order to align with the April 17, 2020 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) guidance that defines critical infrastructure workers as "(w)orkers critical to the manufacturing, distribution, sales, rental, leasing, repair, and maintenance of vehicles and other transportation equipment (including electric vehicle charging stations) and the supply chains that enable these operations to facilitate continuity of travel-related operations for essential workers." We believe the April 17 CISA guidance most clearly delineates suppliers as essential and will provide certainty to our member companies.

We look forward to the full resumption of supplier operations in Illinois, pairing established best health and safety practices with fulfillment of customer needs. We welcome your continued leadership and partnership to help make that possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Long". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Long
President & CEO, MEMA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie A. Fream". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Julie Fream
President & CEO, OESA

Cc: Anne Caprara, Chief of Staff; Dan Hynes, Deputy Governor; Lisa Duarte, Assistant Deputy Governor

¹The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA) is the leading trade association representing vehicle suppliers that manufacture and remanufacture components and systems for use in passenger cars and heavy trucks, including original equipment to new vehicles as well as aftermarket parts to service, maintain and repair more than 281 million vehicles on the road today. MEMA represents its membership companies through four divisions: Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), Heavy Duty Manufacturers Association (HDMA), Motor & Equipment Remanufacturers Association (MERA), and the Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA).

