

Hon. Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
PO Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

March 20, 2020

Dear Governor Abbott,

Thank you for your leadership and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, some states, counties, and localities across the country have imposed “shelter in place” orders restricting the work and activities of employees in “non-essential businesses.” While we believe these orders are well-intentioned and can be necessary, we believe that manufacturers have much to contribute to the public welfare in this difficult time. As such, we are requesting that any potential “shelter in place” order include an exemption for industries included in the March 19, 2020 [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency guidance](#) on essential critical infrastructure workers.

Manufacturers provide many critical functions, particularly in times of national crisis. As Jay Timmons, President and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers, has said, “The country is depending on the many things our members make— from equipment and vehicles needed for our nation’s first responders, to items seemingly not critical but very much a part of the supply chain necessary for both comfort and survival during these uncertain times.”

What businesses need is clear guidance that is consistent across all jurisdictions. The federal Department of Homeland Security, as part of the CISA guidelines linked above, has provided ways to clearly [identify critical infrastructure sectors during COVID-19](#). We encourage you to carefully consider these guidelines in ANY order you may make to enhance public safety at this time. Certainly, the guidelines provide by CISA don’t cover all critical needs from every industry. Therefore, we would suggest implementing a prompt waiver process for industries and products that are vital to all citizens, but may not seem to be immediately covered by the guidance. Such a process should allow a business to provide evidence that they are adhering to any [guidance for businesses and employers provided by the Centers for Disease Control](#) while still providing their needed service or product. Once that evidence is provided, we hope that you would consider quickly granting that waiver from any “shelter in place” order.

We represent all types and sizes of businesses, which make and provide all kinds of essential products to Texans and the world. We are happy to connect you with any of

our members who can give you examples of how we can all work together to be safe and provide what our friends and neighbors need most.

Again, thank you for your continued service to Texas. We look forward to working with you on this and other issues.

Signed,

Texas Association of Manufacturers
Austin Regional Manufacturers
Association
Dallas County Manufacturers Association
San Antonio Manufacturers Association

South Texas Manufacturers Association
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Frisco Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission

The Longview Chamber of Commerce

Arlington Chamber of Commerce

Texas Association of Business
The Honorable Lew White, Mayor of
Lockhart
Lockhart Economic Development
Corporation
Round Rock Chamber of Commerce
Grapevine Chamber of Commerce
City of Elgin
Bastrop County

Austin Chamber of Commerce
Greater Houston Partnership

El Paso Chamber of Commerce
United Corpus Christi Chamber of
Commerce

Dallas Regional Chamber
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Texas Business Leadership Council
Buda Economic Development
Corporation

Luling Economic Development
Corporation

Georgetown Economic Development
Corporation

Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce
The Honorable Hoppy Haden, Caldwell
County Judge

San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce

Kyle Economic Development
City of Bastrop

City of Smithville

Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of
Commerce