



April 1, 2020



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



RE: Adopting Department of Homeland Security Guidance for Defining “Essential”

Dear Mr. McBride:



As Governors implement emergency actions to protect the American people against COVID-19, our organizations respectfully ask for the National Governors Association to urge the States to adopt the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) “Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response” (March 28, 2020) for identifying essential workers and business operations. The DHS document will provide a uniform national approach for protecting the country’s critical transportation and manufacturing needs.



The undersigned organizations represent companies that manufacture parts for the critical motor vehicle supply-chain and companies that help maintain the nation’s fleet of public and private vehicles—from cars, trucks and buses to police and emergency vehicles. Both the States and the Federal government are seeking to ensure that reliable transportation is available during this crisis. The DHS Guidance document is an excellent way to achieve that goal.



Governors and local authorities have been making difficult decisions balancing “essential” commercial activities with “Shelter in Place” and “Safer at Home” directives. The directives have sought to identify products and services that are necessary to protect each community’s health and safety, including parts manufacturing, automotive service and repair. However, there have been inconsistencies in how such rules apply to the automotive supply chain, which supports critical service and repair needs. The DHS Guidance document will provide a uniform standard allowing automotive businesses to fully meet each community’s needs during this unprecedented time.



The DHS memo establishes a comprehensive approach to identifying essential industries and employees—from auto parts manufacturers and distributors to maintenance and repair technicians, warehouse workers, and truck drivers. Where implemented, the document has helped guide automotive businesses as they meet the challenge of ensuring the safe and continued operation of the nation’s transportation infrastructure.



Our member companies are making difficult decisions at the state and local level to address the COVID-19 challenge while ensuring the safety of their workers and the financial future of their businesses. Many of these companies operate in

multiple states, creating the added task of understanding designations for multiple jurisdictions. With respect to how each state defines “essential” businesses, having a single national approach would help eliminate confusion and complications. We respectfully ask for your assistance in urging States to adopt the DHS Guidance document.

We welcome the opportunity to work together during these difficult times. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Hanvey
President & CEO
Auto Care Association

Kristy Babb
Executive Director
Automotive Oil Change Association (AOCA)

Ray Fisher
President
Automotive Service Association (ASA)

Bill Long
President and CEO
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)

Christopher J. Kersting
President and CEO
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)

Roy Littlefield
Chief Executive Officer
Tire Industry Association (TIA)

Roy Littlefield
Executive Vice President
Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades (SSDA-AT)

Anne Forristall Luke
President & CEO
U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association (USTMA)

cc: Chiefs of Staff for all 50 State Governors