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Dear Ms. Majchrzak, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Esposito, and Ms. Muehlemann,

On behalf of the New York Pest Management Association and the National Pest Management Association we thank you for your service to the state of New York during these uncertain times. **Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order, 202.6, we'd like to clarify that pest control and extermination services on deemed essential.** Based on several correspondences from Empire State Development we do believe this to be true and if so, we can certainly communicate this with the industry as to alleviate unneeded and numerous company by company inquiries to your regional offices.

As you are likely aware, California, Illinois, and Connecticut have all passed similar shelter in place orders in which pest control and extermination services are deemed essential, so we appreciate being able to have that consistency across New York as well. The Department of Homeland Security has also included the same language in their memorandum released earlier this week should a federal shelter in place order be mandated. Additionally, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation has indicated that they too interpret pest control and extermination services essential.

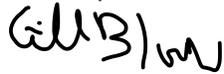
The professional pest control industry, is responsible for the protection of public health, food and property. Pests can spread diseases such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, salmonellosis, hantavirus and encephalitis. Stinging insects force half a million people to the emergency room every year. Cockroach and rodent allergens trigger asthma attacks in children; rodents contaminate or consume about 20% of the world's food supply and bed bugs can cause allergic reactions. The importance of the pest control industry to the nation as an essential service cannot be understated.

Additionally, the pest control industry is trained, tested and certified in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Technicians routinely employ the use respirators, eye protection, gloves, and clothing to conform with safety requirements established by EPA and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

As an essential service industry, we will continue to service the nation's food production facilities, grocery stores, medical institutions, multifamily housing units, warehouses, homes and businesses. We cannot afford to have our medical facilities, groceries stores or homes uninhabitable due to pests and pest related diseases, particularly as we tell citizens to stay home. There is not a segment of the food industry that could comply with federal sanitation and health regulations without an adequate pest control program.

Please let us know at your earliest convenience if our interpretation is correct and we will gladly communicate that with our industry.

Sincerely,



Gil Bloom  
New York Pest Management Association



Andrew Architect  
National Pest Management Association