



March 24, 2020

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster,

South Carolina's manufacturers are grateful for all you and your team have done to lead our state during this unprecedented time. From the onset of this crisis you have facilitated an open dialogue with the manufacturing community, and we look forward to continuing that communication to ensure that SC's manufacturers can continue to operate to serve the best interests of critical public need during this time.

Our state's manufacturers are working tirelessly to ensure best practices to protect the health and safety of employees and their families. This includes many actions such as following travel bans and guidance, utilizing social distancing, frequent cleaning and sanitization, and continuously following and promoting federal, state, and local guidance regarding COVID-19 prevention and response.

As we have seen in many other states, Governors are making difficult decisions regarding shelter in place orders, and we know that at some point you may need to utilize such an action in South Carolina. We have been in constant communication with our members, many that have been directly dealing with this issue in other states and municipalities, to provide detailed recommendations to you and your team, should they be needed.

Due to the incredibly complex nature of supply chains, and the unintended consequences that can occur by exempting only certain manufacturing operations, **we request that manufacturing as an industry sector is recognized as exempted from any shelter in place order.** If this is not possible, the consensus of our manufacturing membership is to directly recognize and formalize in an executive order the following:

- The Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Guidance on the "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response" with specific additions itemized below.
- Proactively allow businesses to apply for an exemption and create a special hotline and email address before issuing an order (NC model).
- As we have seen throughout this event, a need for flexibility is critical and we would also ask that any initial executive order issued is utilized as preliminary guidance that can be modified as necessary.



Along those lines, we request that you add specific areas of emphasis requested by South Carolina companies to ensure they would be covered by CISA guidance. These particular clarifications to serve the public and greater good are:

- Manufacturing and supply chains that supply other Essential Businesses and Operations including but not limited to, computers, IT equipment, industrial cleaning services, household appliances, paint, glass, electrical equipment, ingredients and components, chemicals, soaps and detergents, workplace / personal care / household hygiene products, household and safety products
- Any facility that is regulated by DHS CISA, Coast Guard, ATF or any other security regulatory program
- Any industrial facility that is designed to operate continuously and where cessation of operations would create financial hardship, require lengthy planning and/or create risk
- Any companies registered as a facility with FDA pursuant to the Food Safety Modernization Act either for animal or human
- Residential and commercial construction and businesses that provide the materials, services, and supplies that support the industry, in any capacity, even if they are not specifically listed

Thank you again for all the support you have provided to our state's manufacturers. We stand ready to assist in any way possible and know that we will come through this event stronger together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sara Hazzard'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Hazzard
President and CEO
South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance