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State of Wyoming



Dear Governors:

Thank you for your efforts to contain and minimize the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). AFPM represents domestic fuel refiners and petrochemical manufacturers that supply materials that are absolutely critical to the fight against COVID-19, including health care and hygiene products, food packaging, and transportation fuel. In executing measures to stop the spread of this disease, we ask that you recognize refineries and petrochemical facilities as critical infrastructure and our workforce as essential, consistent with recommendations by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

On March 19, 2020, the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response*. This document was developed in close consultation with the private sector to help State and local officials identify the essential workforce needed to maintain continuity of functions “critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security.”<sup>1</sup> We strongly encourage State and local authorities to consult this list when issuing any implementation directives and guidance. CISA, as the nation’s risk advisor, recognizes the key functions our industries play in the response effort and in maintaining community wellbeing.

Our members’ products are critical to our nation’s response to COVID-19. They keep our medical environments safe and sanitary. The petrochemicals that comprise single-use plastics reduce contamination in medicine, medical products, and food. Petroleum-based soaps used by medical professionals greatly reduce the risk of infection. Carbomer polymers and glycerin are key ingredients in hand sanitizer. Disposable gloves are made from the petrochemicals latex, vinyl, and nitrile. Disposable face masks and medical gowns often consist of synthetic polymers, and disposable syringes, bags that hold blood and saline, and tubing used for intubation are all made of plastic. And the transportation fuels we produce help ensure that store shelves are stocked, ambulances are running, and that essential employees can get to their jobs every day. This is just a very short list of the ways in which our industries are actively contributing to the response against COVID-19.

AFPM members take the COVID-19 threat very seriously. Our members have implemented restrictive pandemic planning measures to reduce workforce exposure and to severely limit the

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<sup>1</sup>DHS CISA (2020). Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response and *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response*, Version 1.0, p. 7 for fuel refining and p. 11 for chemical. <https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA-Guidance-on-Essential-Critical-Infrastructure-Workers-1-20-508c.pdf>



possibility of community spread within their facilities. Non-essential employees have been placed on telework; all travel, both domestic and international, is restricted; social distancing protocol is in effect in control rooms, at docks, and for essential employees at the corporate level; truck drivers are no longer allowed to exit their vehicles when making deliveries; and non-critical inspections and audits have been postponed, among other measures.

AFPM members are committed to doing their part to limit the spread of the disease, while maintaining the core services and functions our nation requires daily. AFPM members are there when you need us — providing reliable and proven products. Every hour of every day, millions of Americans — including those in critical need — depend on the fuels and petrochemicals made by members of AFPM.

We would be happy to provide additional information on how our members are protecting the health of their employees while delivering necessary products to the entire nation during this challenging time. Thank you again for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

Chet Thompson