



Serving Municipal Utilities

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Mike Parson
Governor of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

Thank you for your tireless efforts to protect Missourians during the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the municipal utilities in Missouri, we appreciate the measures that have been taken to maintain continuity and resiliency throughout Missouri.

Our residents and the resiliency of Missouri depends on utility workers and their service contractors and suppliers to provide safe and reliable utility services, specifically water, electricity, natural gas, wastewater treatment, and broadband services. As such, we urge you to specifically identify local government utility service workers and utility support businesses as essential critical infrastructure workers in future state orders and directives, similar to those outlined in the United States Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's advisory memorandum on essential critical infrastructure workers during the COVID-19 response.

The Missouri Public Utility Alliance's core mission is to advocate for community-owned utilities and the local governments that regulate them. Ensuring that drinking water and wastewater services are fully operational is critical to containing COVID-19 and protecting Missourians from other public health risks. Additionally, as Missouri's workforce and families find themselves at home over the next several weeks, it is essential that homes and critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, stay powered with reliable electricity and natural gas supply.

Thank you again for the amount of time and resources that you have provided to minimize the spread of COVID-19. We are dedicated to working closely with you and your administration during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact me with any questions you may have about the continuity efforts being put forward by Missouri's municipal utilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ewell Lawson", written in a cursive style.

Ewell Lawson

Vice President – Government and External Affairs