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March 30, 2020

Hon. Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor,

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) is the voice in the nation's capital for the private-sector waste and recycling industry that is essential to preventing the spread of disease and illness as well as maintaining the quality of American life. The delivery of waste and recycling services impacts all healthcare, residential, commercial, and industrial properties on a daily basis.

As the supply chain is further stressed during the COVID-19 pandemic, NWRA asks that FEMA, as part of their role in maintaining a resilient supply chain, clearly indicates that the waste and recycling industry should receive heightened consideration for personal protective equipment (PPE) from vendors. During this national emergency, NWRA members will continue providing waste and recycling services to their customers and elsewhere as may be needed in order to protect the public's health and safety.

This request is made to continue a high level of public health not only related to COVID-19, but for the other numerous public health issues that result in waste not being picked up and properly disposed. Our workers are on the front lines making sure that the waste generated during the pandemic is properly disposed of in order to minimize a greater public health threat. They cannot do that safely without the appropriate PPE as indicated by [OSHA](#).

This request is made in light of the [DHS CISA](#) designation of solid waste workers as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce:

- DHS designated the industry under their [Public Works](#) category:

Support to ensure the effective removal, storage, and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste and hazardous waste
- as well as under their [Transportation and Logistics](#) category:

Truck drivers who haul hazardous and waste materials to support critical infrastructure, capabilities, functions, and services

Association members operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and can be found in most, if not all, U.S. congressional districts. Waste and recycling facilities number nearly 18,000 scattered throughout the U.S., mirroring population centers.

NWRA urges quick consideration of this request so that our members can continue providing these essential services for the public health while continuing to protect our workers. Should you have any questions, please contact Kirk Sander at 202-364-3750 or ksander@wasterecycling.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell K. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "S".

Darrell K. Smith, PhD
President and CEO