



March 20, 2020

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
Office of the Director
Washington, DC 20528

Cc: Vice President Pence

Dear Director Krebs,

As part of the paper and wood products industry, the Corrugated Packaging Alliance (CPA), a group of allied trade associations including AICC, The Independent Packaging Association, American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), Fibre Box Association (FBA) and the Technical Association of the Pulp & Paper Industry (TAPPI), appreciates and supports the action taken by the Department of Homeland Security to designate corrugated packaging facilities including containerboard mills, corrugated box plants, and their raw materials and equipment suppliers as “essential businesses” excluded from restrictions of “Shelter in Place” orders/measures. Along with AF&PA, we ask Governors to adopt the DHS designation for their individual states. This action will simplify communications and help to ensure a uniform response nationwide for the continuity of essential products.

Corrugated cardboard boxes are the backbone of the American supply chain. The US corrugated packaging industry is a \$35 billion manufacturing sector. There are 1,146 box plants operating in nearly 1,000 cities and towns across America. The corrugated industry provides employment and benefits to more than 100,000 Americans. Our industry makes packaging that is essential to our everyday lives from renewable and recyclable resources. Close to 40 percent of all corrugated packaging produced annually is used to package food and beverages.

Box manufacturers have increased production of corrugated cardboard boxes to keep transport packaging flowing to makers of essential products including packaging for food and other consumer products, medical and pharmaceutical products, tissue and hygiene products and more. Corrugated cardboard boxes are essential to supporting online purchases of goods being delivered directly to homes.

Corrugated Packaging Alliance

AICC, The Independent Packaging Association | American Forest & Paper Association
Fibre Box Association | Technical Association of the Pulp & Paper Industry
500 Park Blvd., Suite 985, Itasca, IL 60143

Disruption in the availability of these goods would cause significant hardships to consumers across the country who depend on steady and stable supplies. Corrugated cardboard manufacturers are dedicated to continuing the operation of box plants under the guidelines of Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to ensure products continue to flow to market.

Thank you for your continued leadership during these very difficult times.

Sincerely,

AICC – The Independent Packaging Association

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