



# Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association

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March 21, 2020

Honorable Governor Tim Walz  
Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan  
Commissioner Thom Petersen  
130 State Capitol  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan and Commissioner Petersen,

The Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA) is the business trade association representing those who grow and sell agricultural goods and perform related services to design, install and manage our outdoor living environment. Known affectionately as *"the original green industry"*, its make-up includes landscape and hardscape installers, stewardship companies, garden centers, designers, tree care specialists, irrigation practitioners, nursery growers and snow & ice service professionals.

Employing 35,000 or so workers throughout the state, the Minnesota Green Industry was, before the most recent economic expansion, estimated to contribute more than \$1.5 billion to our state economy. The industry's current contribution to Minnesota's economy likely substantially exceeds \$1.5 billion.

The members and leadership of the MNLA support you and others charged with difficult decisions during this time of challenges presented by COVID-19 and its effects on our society and economy. We know that among the difficult decisions you may face is the possibility of a "shelter in place" order.

The crops, products and services delivered by Minnesota's Green Industry contribute to maintaining safe, clean and mentally therapeutic public places and a healthy option for our population to enjoy fresh air, fresh food, exercise and family togetherness during voluntary or mandatory shelter in place actions.

**On behalf of the Minnesota Green Industry, we respectfully request that you and your trusted leadership consider our products and services essential and exempt from Shelter In Place orders should such action be directed.** Perhaps as an industry, we can help. If MNLA or its sub-industry members may be of specific assistance in helping you and other leaders during this time of extraordinary measures, please call upon us.

Sincerely,

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