



Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.

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Dear OFA Member,

As you are most likely aware, yesterday Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued a “stay-at-home” order, effectively ordering people in “non-essential” jobs to stay at home, with a few exceptions.

In issuing the order, the Governor is using the following guidance document, "[MEMORANDUM ON IDENTIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE](#)", released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 19 ,2020, to determine the criteria for Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce

According to that document, Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce includes "**Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products**".

America needs our industry to continue producing the paper-based products used daily by all Americans as well as in the medical field. We need packaging materials to ship these and many other important products in. We need pallets to ship all these packaged products to those in need around the country. These are just a few of the essential critical infrastructure items that the forest products industry in Ohio supplies.

The bottom line is that the forest products industry and its workforce have been declared as “essential” to the effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to keep America running.

As an individual business, it is ultimately your decision as to whether or not to continue operating. If you do keep operating, please be sure to follow all “social distancing” guidelines, as outlined in the [ODH Stay at Home document](#).

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