



National Wooden Pallet & Container Association

Pallets Move the World®

March 18, 2020

Mr. Bill McBride
Executive Director
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
U.S. Conference of Mayors
1620 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. Matthew Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties
660 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities
660 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20001

RE: DECLARATION REQUEST: Wooden Pallets and Containers – COVID-19 Emergency Designation as Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure

Dear Messrs. McBride, Cochran, Chase and Anthony,

As you, our nation's leadership, consider emergency measures to protect the American people from the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, we respectfully urge that you, your colleagues, and your members ensure that state and local policies safeguard the ability of essential businesses to continue operations.

Wooden pallets and containers are essential services and critical infrastructure. We are the blood cells of the body of the United States. Of all shipments of products in the United States, 93% are shipped on a pallet. There are 2 billion pallets in circulation in the US at any given time. Without this critical piece of shipping and transportation of goods, commerce would soon come to a halt. Further, wooden pallets and containers will be a key component in the recovery of our country after this crisis passes.

The facilities and workers that manufacture, repair, and distribute wood pallets and wood packaging must be included in any critical infrastructure and essential services decisions that are made.

Essential tasks rely on safe and efficient transportation. Public and private shipping services are necessary to ensure the public receives essential goods and importantly medical supplies and related products. Businesses that provide the support or supplies necessary to operate must therefore also be deemed essential and mission critical.

Businesses that manufacture and repair wooden pallets and containers are essential to maintaining critical operations and the flow of commerce. Community members providing critical care and services should be assured they will receive their shipments in a timely manner and in good condition.



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We understand your organizations are doing everything possible to support the nation's state and local leaders in this important time. We respectfully urge you to help coordinate state and local policies that take into account the important role of wooden pallets and wooden containers during this crisis. Pallets move food, beverage, pharmaceuticals, chemistry, medical supplies, essential paper products to name just a few products that are shipped on a pallet.

Most businesses affected in our industry are family owned and support the economy of the United States through purchases of lumber and related goods. Our industry employs and supports entry level workers that will be the hardest hit if unemployed or put on leave. Most importantly, wooden pallets and containers are a critical piece of the supply chain in the United States.

Sincerely,

Brent J. McClendon, CAE
NWPCA President/CEO