



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Re: COVID-19 Crisis Response

Dear Mr. President:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for Federal, state and local governments throughout the United States. As the Federal government has deferred to state and local governments, the Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America (IPANA) recognizes the difficult decisions they face – especially which businesses need to close their doors to protect public health.

The Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America urges you to weigh in and ensure that industrial packaging operations remain open due to the industry's crucial role in supporting the well-being of both citizens and businesses throughout America. Industrial packaging is essential. Specifically, for every product related to food, healthcare, household consumer products, energy production, etc., there is industrial packaging. Consequently, while it is crucial that the manufacturers of finished goods remain open, it is equally critical for our packaging manufacturing operations and suppliers to remain fully open. Without the packaging supplied by our members, supply chains will be severely strained, and many manufacturers will be unable to run at full capacity in producing the goods so many people need to survive the COVID-19 crisis. We are asking the government to adopt a federal designation that deems the industrial packaging manufacturing supply chain “**essential**” to help mitigate any interruptions in providing the supplies that are critical to the health and safety of America.

The Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America is the primary association representing the interests of manufacturers of new industrial packaging and their suppliers in North America. Our members produce steel, plastic and fiber drums as well as intermediate bulk containers (IBCs). Our goals include raising the visibility of industrial packaging and emphasizing its importance in the safe and reliable transport of goods throughout North America and the world. Our members are manufacturers and suppliers who are an indispensable resource for the industrial packaging industry, promote technological developments that improve product safety and reliability, and assure that domestic and international regulations are reasonable and necessary.

The industrial packaging industry is a proud partner to government and businesses working to combat the impact of the COVID-19. IPANA deeply appreciates your efforts to date. Our members throughout the United States stand ready to assist you and urge that you direct the Federal government to work with states and localities to ensure that industrial packaging and supplier operations remain fully functional due to the industry's critical role in the nation's COVID-19 response strategy.

Sincerely,



Susan Nauman
Executive Director
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