



April 3, 2020

Dear GPI Members:

The Association remains active in efforts to assist member companies as they address emerging restrictions, guidance and other COVID-19 program related changes. Highlighted below is activity and updates from this past week.

Glass Container Manufacturing & Supply Chain Industry “Essential”

Memo: As previously highlighted, federal guidance from the Dept. of Homeland Security has deemed "glass container manufacturing" and our supply chain partners, as essential operations. GPI encourages you to [download our memorandum](#), noting this recognition for your operational needs and requirements. Our work in the early stages helped ensure that plants were able to maintain operations, and that suppliers had those essential designations as well. As more states issued “stay-at-home” orders, reference and reliance on the federal CISA Homeland lists became the standard practice.

Coordination with Other Packaging Industries: One sector of the industry supply chain that has had challenges within the state “essential” orders is the beverage container deposit redemption programs. GPI has spent considerable time this week with member companies, in-state advocacy firms, and working with the leadership of the Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) and the National Association of PET Container Resources (NAPCOR), as well as the Container Recycling Institute (CRI), reviewing and responding to COVID-19 changes made to bottle bill programs. For all of our industries, bottle bill programs provide a much needed, high quality recyclable stream for our respective manufacturing processes.

We did several media calls and interviews on this subject, such as the Waste360 article that published yesterday. Links to all GPI media are included in our News section.

Letters were sent from all three associations to leadership in [Michigan](#), [Iowa](#) and [Connecticut](#), to highlight the important role bottle bill programs play in their state, asking for clarity on specific program changes, and to encourage industry stakeholder opportunities prior to future any program changes. These states presented the most immediate operational and advocacy challenges to supply. We intend to address similar bottle bill recycling program challenges in the remaining states this coming week, and are enrolling additional help from like-minded recycling organizations to address the challenges.

Messaging with Other Glass Industry Associations: On Monday, GPI will join our sister trade association in Europe, [The European Container Glass Federation \(FEVE\)](#) and the [European Federation of Glass Recyclers \(FERVER\)](#), in a joint letter, emphasizing the essential role that the glass container industry, glass recycling, and other raw materials and supplier companies play in support of our food and beverage customers.

Recycling Services and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

Operations: *WasteDive* is continuing to follow solid waste, collection and recycling policies, as they are modified in response to COVID-19. [Click here](#) for their latest, daily update of known changes, which now includes guidance on OSHA and other worker safety guidelines. We are paying particular attention to California, where more MRFs have been suggesting that they are shutting down operations or are looking for additional clarity on continuing operations. If you know of or hear of waste management closure affecting glass, please bring those to my attention and add these targets to our growing lists.

Chinese Import Tariffs (Sec. 301): Administration officials confirmed this week that any forthcoming tariff relief/removal will not apply to Chinese imports. We will inform members if that position changes.

GPI Launches New Website: This week, GPI had a soft launch for our revamped website! In addition to this new refreshed website, GPI has a new Association Management System (AMS) membership database connected to the website. We encourage all members to create a username and password, and login to view the new format and content. The new GPI website is an enhanced membership benefit, and we will work over time to place more exclusive content behind the member wall throughout the coming weeks and months. Please let us know if you have any difficulty logging in.

GPI Membership Call: GPI will host a call for all members this coming week (date and time to be emailed out on Monday). We were planning a Government Affairs call this coming week, but are instead opening that call up to cover a broader range of association activity, policy, communications and other updates. GPI is also planning a call with EHS member company representatives in the coming days, and will be reaching out to the marketing committee and the industry technical expert committees as well to rekindle GPI committee activity in April.

I encourage all member companies to continue following COVID-19 [business guidance](#) provided by the U.S. regulatory authority, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). To stay up-to-date on GPI news and COVID-19 developments, follow GPI on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and visit our [News & Events page](#).

Please reach out to me directly with any questions at the office 703-684-6359, sdefife@gpi.org, or my cell if urgent , 703-537-6202. Know that you can also contact Bryan Vickers with GPI's member services department, bvickers@pacellp.com, 703-403-2882, with any questions or inquiries.

Thank you,

Scott

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