



March 19, 2020

Dear GPI Members:

I wanted to give you a quick update on GPI's recent activities in support of the industry during the COVID-19 emergency.

In addition to following health policies, guidance and restrictions in place due to COVID-19 containment efforts, GPI and member companies are continuing their engagement with policymakers at the state and federal levels, requesting the glass container manufacturing, supply chain and customer operations be deemed essential, and able to operate around the country. Our communications to policy makers closely mirror [the press release](#) GPI issued to media on Tuesday.

Glass Container Manufacturing as an “Essential” industry: In coordination with our manufacturing member companies, GPI has reached out to 18 Governor's offices, prioritizing states with manufacturing plants, along with Federal leadership within the House, Senate and Administration, to make our case that glass container manufacturing, our raw materials and supply chains, along with our food and beverage customers be considered "essential operations." We will continue to reach out to additional state and federal leaders with this message, and will turn next to local public officials, due to local actions that may restrict operations.

Other recent GPI actions and known information on COVID-19 related policies, legislation and action impacting our supply chain and customers, and response from the Administration and Congress are below:

Immediate Relief from Chinese Tariffs (Sec. 301): The Administration has not indicated any willingness to suspend the existing tariffs on Chinese imports. [This letter highlights recent requests](#) from a variety of industries, that for now, have been rejected by the Administration.

Recycling Services and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Operations: While waste management operations are usually deemed essential, and none have been prohibited from operating in states to our knowledge, some companies are suggesting that they are treating the recycling collections differently than waste management and halting or slowing residential recycling. These consumer and business/supply-chain developments continue to unfold. *WasteDive* is following this closely - [click here](#) for their latest, daily update of known changes.

Hours of Service (HOS): The U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) [has relaxed Hours of Service Driver restrictions](#) for food and other essential goods deliveries. Connected, is a request from the American Beverage Association, [requesting all state truck weight restrictions be increased nationally](#), for trucks carrying essential food and beverage items. (not yet been granted).

National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Activity: The NAM team are working hard to inform and assist GPI and their other manufacturing industry members. Below is the latest information on their efforts and resources:

- NAM President and CEO [Jay Timmons wrote](#) to the heads of the National Governors Association, the National Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties urging them to issue clear and consistent guidance on what qualifies as essential business. NAM has communicated this letter directly to governors in all 50 states.
- The NAM similarly [wrote to Vice President Pence](#) on Wednesday to seek nationwide guidance on how manufacturers can operate safely and efficiently, and [issued new policy](#) urging the administration to issue a federal designation of manufacturing as "essential" to the coronavirus response.
- The NAM has also been [maintaining a resource](#) to track emerging state and local restrictions as we best understand them.
- [NAM Tools on Essential Manufacturing Operations](#) - Companies may use these draft letters, talking points and other materials, to make the case to local authorities why their operations are essential.

Latest Congressional Action: Yesterday, President Trump signed the second of two COVID-19 bills into law, addressing limited sick days, unemployment aid to states and COVID-19 testing. Discussions between House and Senate leaders are continuing for a likely \$1 tril.+ direct-check to Americans and industry specific relief effort, targeted at the companies and businesses that have been most impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and shutdowns.

New Communication Outlets: GPI has created new communications channels in addition to our weekly SmartBrief. In addition, a refreshed GPI website is in the final stages of development and should be ready soon. 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.

GPI encourages all member companies to follow COVID-19 [business guidance](#) provided by the U.S. regulatory authority, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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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