



March 20, 2020

Hon. Kay Ivey
Governor State of Alabama Hon.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor State of Alaska

Hon. Doug Ducey
Governor State of Arizona

Hon. Asa Hutchinson
Governor State of Arkansas

Hon. Gavin Newsom
Governor State of California

Hon. Jared Polis
Governor State of Colorado

Hon. Ned Lamont
Governor State of Connecticut

Hon. John Carney
Governor State of Delaware

Hon. Ron DeSantis
Governor State of Florida

Hon. Brian Kemp
Governor State of Georgia

Hon. David Ige
Governor State of Hawaii

Hon. Brad Little
Governor State of Idaho

Hon. JB Pritzker
Governor State of Illinois

Hon. Eric Holcomb
Governor State of Indiana

Hon. Kim Reynolds
Governor State of Iowa

Hon. Laura Kelly
Governor State of Kansas

Hon. Andy Beshear
Governor Commonwealth of
Kentucky

Hon. John Bel Edwards
Governor State of Louisiana

Hon. Janet Mills
Governor State of Maine

Hon. Larry Hogan
Governor State of Maryland

Hon. Charlie Baker
Governor Commonwealth of
Massachusetts

Hon. Gretchen Whitmer
Governor State of Michigan

Hon. Tim Walz
Governor State of Minnesota

Hon. Tate Reeves
Governor State of Mississippi

Hon. Mike Parson
Governor State of Missouri

Hon. Steve Bullock
Governor State of Montana

Hon. Pete Ricketts
Governor State of Nebraska

Hon. Steve Sisolak
Governor State of Nevada

Hon. Chris Sununu
Governor State of New Hampshire

Hon. Phil Murphy
Governor State of New Jersey

Hon. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor State of New Mexico

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor State of New York

Hon. Roy Cooper
Governor State of North Carolina

Hon. Doug Burgum
Governor State of North Dakota

Hon. Mike DeWine
Governor State of Ohio

Hon. Kevin Stitt
Governor State of Oklahoma

Hon. Kate Brown
Governor State of Oregon

Hon. Tom Wolf
Governor Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania

Hon. Gina Raimondo
Governor State of Rhode Island

Hon. Henry McMaster
Governor State of South Carolina

Hon. Kristi Noem
Governor State of South Dakota

Hon. Bill Lee
Governor State of Tennessee

Hon. Greg Abbott
Governor State of Texas

Hon. Gary Herbert
Governor State of Utah

Hon. Phil Scott
Governor State of Vermont

Hon. Ralph Northam
Governor Commonwealth of
Virginia

Hon. Jay Inslee
Governor State of Washington

Hon. Jim Justice
Governor State of West Virginia

Hon. Tony Evers
Governor State of Wisconsin

Hon. Mark Gordon
Governor State of Wyoming

Hon. Lou Leon Guerrero
Governor Guam

Hon. Lolo Matalasi Moliga
Governor American Samoa

Hon. Ralph Deleon Guerrero
Torres
Governor Northern Mariana
Islands

Hon. Wanda Vazquez Garced
Governor Puerto Rico

Hon. Albert Bryan
Governor U.S. Virgin Islands

Dear Governors:

I am writing on behalf of ISSA–The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association’s more than 9,300 members across the country. Our members play a vital role in protecting the public health through the manufacture of cleaning equipment, cleaning products, sanitizers, and disinfectants, and by providing contract cleaning services to hospitals, residential care facilities, schools, and institutional buildings across the country. Many of our members produce hospital grade disinfectants that are registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use against emerging pathogens including SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

We support your efforts to combat the rapid transmission of COVID-19 and we understand and acknowledge that, in some instances, drastic steps are being taken, including shutting down businesses deemed non-essential. We look forward to partnering with the government when helpful to provide disinfectant products and services that are proven to drastically reduce the transmission of the virus. As an essential industry, our members are dedicated to protecting the public health by providing vital products and cleaning services that protect schools, day care centers, grocery stores, medical institutions, residential care facilities, multifamily housing units, warehouses, office buildings, and other institutions.

As you consider next steps regarding emergency response and potential restrictions on business operations in your state, we respectfully request that the cleaning industry be recognized as an essential industry, providing products and services that are indispensable in the effort to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Recently, counties in and around the greater San Francisco metropolitan area enacted a temporary shelter in place order. We anticipate the Federal Government and other States and municipalities may contemplate similar precautionary steps. The language below was used in the San Francisco and the California municipalities shelter in place orders:

*For the purposes of this Order, “Essential Businesses” means: i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure; ii. Grocery stores, certified farmers’ markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other nongrocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences; iii. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing; iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals; v. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services; vi. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities; vii. Banks and related financial institutions; viii. Hardware stores; ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, **and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses.***

This language clearly references, but does not directly spell out, the key role that the cleaning industry provides in protecting the public health during the current national health emergency. **We respectfully request that as you contemplate any shelter in place orders that you specifically deem the production and transport of cleaning products and commercial cleaning and janitorial services as essential operations that should continue during any mass closures.**

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter and for all that you are doing to protect Americans and stem the spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John H. Barrett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John H. Barrett

Executive Director

ISSA—The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association