



March 23, 2020

Dear Governor:

Thank you for your considerable efforts to address the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. While events continue to unfold at a rapid rate and with a high degree of uncertainty, The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) and our members are taking steps to remain fully operational throughout the duration of this event while taking necessary precautions to protect the health and safety of our employees and the communities in which we operate. As you and your Administration continue to respond to the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, I write to request that the fertilizer supply chain be designated an “essential service” and “critical infrastructure” in order to ensure that American agriculture can remain operable and continue to provide food security for our nation and the world during these challenging times.

As you may know, on March 19, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released an initial list of “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” to “help State and local officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security.” This list appropriately identifies workers in the fertilizer supply chain as “essential critical infrastructure workers.” In order to ensure a consistent approach across all 50 states and local governments, I respectfully request that you incorporate the CISA list into your state response plan and any critical shelter in place or shut down orders for your state allowing these workers, facilities and services to continue to operate and provide necessary inputs for the food supply chain.

TFI represents fertilizer manufacturers, transporters, wholesalers, importers, brokers and retailers. Our members provide plant nutrients that are responsible for nearly half of the world’s food supply. The fertilizer industry supports nearly 500,000 American jobs and has an economic impact of over \$130 billion annually.

The next six to eight weeks will be crucial to our members and their farmer customers, as they conduct spring planting activities. The timely delivery of plant nutrients to American farmers is critical to their ability to produce food, fuel, and fiber. In order to get plant nutrients to the farm, the fertilizer industry relies on a safe and efficient transportation network, including rail carriers, ports, barges, pipelines, and trucks. In addition, the ability to move products across the borders of Canada and Mexico is also an important part of the fertilizer supply chain.

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While we are not aware of any prohibitions contemplated on interstate shipments of goods at this time, any such constraints could cripple the ability of our members to provide farmers with the fertilizers they need in a very limited planting window.

Thank you again for your efforts during this very difficult time for our nation and the world. We stand ready to assist you and your Administration in any way that we can to support a strong and fully operational American food supply chain. Thank you for considering our perspectives on this matter. You may reach me at: (202) 962-0490 or crosebusch@tfi.org to address any question regarding our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Rosenbusch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Corey Rosenbusch
President & CEO