



March 23, 2020

Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire
Statehouse
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Essential Industries during a Shelter-in-Place order

Governor Sununu,

On March 19 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Agency (CISA) issued a memorandum on identification of essential critical infrastructure workers during COVID-19 response (attached). This document contains a list of critical infrastructure workers that are essential to continued critical infrastructure viability.

CISA is providing this list to assist State and local officials as they implement and execute response activities. Appearing on this list in several sections are forest and paper products manufacturers:

Healthcare/Public Health

Manufactures, technicians, logistics and warehouse operators, and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products.

Food and Agriculture

Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products.

Energy

Workers who maintain, ensure, or restore the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power, including call centers, utility workers, reliability engineers and fleet maintenance technicians.

Transportation and Logistics

Manufactures and distributors (to include service centers and related operations) of packaging materials, pallets, crates, containers, and other supplies needed to support manufacturing, packaging staging and distribution operations.

New Hampshire is fortunate to have a strong forest products infrastructure that provides our citizens and the country several of the critical products identified within CISA's list;

- Paper for packaging,
- Timber for construction,
- Wood chips for electricity and heat (i.e. several N.H. hospitals and the state's Glencliff facility use wood chips for heat), and
- Lumber to make pallets, crates, or containers for transportation and logistics companies.

New Hampshire's forest products industry is interconnected. Loggers that produce saw logs for lumber and pallets, also produce wood chips for power plants and institutional heating, and they produce pulp wood for paper making. Sawmills that produce lumber also produce wood chips for electricity, heat, and papermaking. Lose one piece of this interconnected web and the remaining portions will be impacted.

Moreover, forest products manufacturers and their supply chain operate on a business model that is built in social distancing. Timber harvesting occurs outdoors with small logging crews who have limited individual interactions. The mill environments tend to be large, open spaces with minimal close quarters interactions where work crews are separated and small.

It is for these reasons the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association is asking that should the State of New Hampshire have to enact a "shelter in place" order you follow the CISA's recommendation and exempt the forest products industry.

New Hampshire's forest products industry is committed to the safety and security of New Hampshire's and the Country's citizens. And, we all recognize the daunting challenges that you and your staff are facing with this crisis.

If you have any questions I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Thank you,



Jasen A. Stock
Executive Director