

March 26, 2020

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security

Agency (CISA) Office of the Director Washington, DC 20528

RE: CISA Guidance Version 1.1 Issued March 23, 2020

Dear Director Krebs,

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) appreciates the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) critical designation in its CISA Guidance of the forest products industry as an "essential business" that should be excluded from restrictions of "Shelter in Place" orders/measures during the COVID-19 crisis. We also appreciate your March 23, 2020 update to the CISA guidance, designating the diverse supply chain needed to make and distribute pulp, paper, packaging, tissue and wood products as "essential businesses." These recognitions provide much needed certainty and clarity for our businesses and employees to meet essential public needs.

AF&PA members make essential products, including tissue products, pulp used in diapers and other personal hygiene products, papers for communication and education, building/construction products, and packaging for food, beverages, foodservice, cleaning supplies, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and other essential consumer products.

Our members rely on our essential suppliers and partners upstream and downstream, including, but not limited to:

- sawmills, land owners and those engaged in timber sale preparation and logging
- converting facilities that turn paper and paperboard into finished products
- businesses involved in the collection, sortation, processing and delivery of recovered fiber
- suppliers of other essential ingredients to papermaking
- businesses involved in providing supplies to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of paper machines and other manufacturing equipment and
- businesses that distribute our products to the marketplace

These designations are crucial to help avoid disruptions in the availability of goods and the resulting hardships to consumers across the country who depend on steady and stable paper and wood products supplies.

As this situation progresses, we urge there be a uniform response across the country to ensure

the continuity of essential manufacturing and distribution, including products made by the forest products industry and our suppliers and customers.

During this time of crisis, AF&PA members stand ready to provide Americans with access to essential products both for everyday life and critically needed health and safety supplies. We look forward to working with you during this difficult time.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Brock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Brock
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Vice President Pence