

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. President:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented response challenges for state and local governments throughout the United States. As states continue to make difficult decisions on which businesses need to close their doors to protect public health, the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD) urges you to make sure that chemical distribution operations remain open because of the industry's crucial role in ensuring the well-being of both citizens and businesses throughout America.

NACD, established in 1971, is an international association of chemical distributors and their supply-chain partners. NACD member companies process, formulate, blend, re-package, warehouse, transport, and market chemical products for over 750,000 customers. The chemical distribution industry that NACD represents is a major economic engine, employing over 80,000 people and generating \$7.5 billion in tax revenue for local communities across the country, all while delivering valuable products to every industry sector.

Presidential Policy Directive 21: Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, designates the chemical industry as one of 16 sectors whose assets, systems, and networks are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, and national public health or safety. The chemical distribution industry is the heart of the chemical supply chain as the vital link between chemical manufacturing and industrial and consumer product manufacturing.

NACD members provide the base materials needed to produce pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, consumer products, and food – all items in high-demand by medical professionals and citizens dealing with COVID-19. While it is crucial that the manufacturers of finished goods remain open, it is equally critical for chemical distribution operations to remain fully open. Without the chemical products and transportation services supplied by the distribution sector, supply chains will be severely strained, and many manufacturers will be unable to run at full capacity in producing the goods so many people need to survive this COVID-19 crisis.

Chemical distributors are also a crucial supply chain link for civil services, including the vital function of water treatment. NACD members supply the necessary chemicals for both small and large municipalities to run the purification plants necessary to provide citizens, businesses, and medical facilities with clean water. As healthcare infrastructure braces for an influx of coronavirus cases, even a minor lapse in key water infrastructure will have disastrous implications for both medical providers and exposed patients alike.

Though the current crisis is undoubtedly a significant test for our country's institutions, the chemical distribution industry is a proud partner to government and businesses working to combat the impact of the coronavirus. NACD along with its members throughout the United States urge you work with states and localities to make sure that chemical distribution operations remain fully functional because of the industry's critical role in the COVID-19 response strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric R. Byer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "B".

Eric R. Byer  
President and CEO  
National Association of Chemical Distributors