



**American
Forest & Paper
Association**

March 26, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: Building Industry and Associated Supply Chain During Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order

Dear Governor Inslee:

We are writing to urge your consideration of continuing, to the degree deemed safe, the construction industry as an essential industry during the term of the Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order. Our organizations, which together represent private forest landowners and the wood and paper products manufacturing infrastructure, rely on a vibrant residential construction industry to support the overall forest products supply chain. We appreciate that you recognized “*workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products*” as part of the critical, essential workforce, but in order for us to operate, and provide the resources that the public needs, the complete supply chain should also be recognized.

The forest products sector in Washington exists as one synergistic industry. Raw logs, lumber, and the paper products needed for sanitation and hygiene products do not exist in isolated industries. The sector needs demand from lumber users, of which home construction is a significant component, to support the harvest of the timber necessary to keep our sawmills open and producing their essential materials. Likewise, the pulp and paper manufacturers rely on chips and other residual products from the sawmills to power their mills and produce paper and hygiene products. No one element of this supply chain can exist in isolation from the others.

Mills in the primary forest products industry are interrelated, as all parts of the tree are used in manufacturing of sawtimber, veneer and plywood, shakes and shingles, post, pole and pilings. Lumber and other wood building products are the primary building material in residential housing construction. These materials are also used across a myriad of infrastructure projects, including emergency medical and lodging structures, and temporary buildings, as well as timely refurbishing or re-purposing of existing facilities for immediate use. When sawmills produce lumber for the residential housing market, they produce wood residues used in pulp, paper, and biomass fuel.

Wood residues, the byproducts of lumber production are used by pulp and paper mills who play a critical role in the North American supply chain by meeting the essential packaging needs of American’s every day in food, beverage, health care, personal care, cleaning products and other household necessities – products that are critically needed during this crisis.

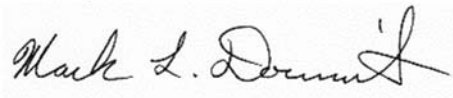
It is important that all major markets for the whole tree, and all its wood and paper products continue operating as part of the critical and essential infrastructure supply chain, to have any of the markets operating. Due to the integrated nature of the forest products industry, stopping production in the

residential construction segment of the supply chain, ripples throughout the whole supply chain, interrupting essential products produced for housing and consumer wood and paper products.

Finally, we understand there may be additional, updated guidance from the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security regarding supply chain for critical infrastructure (CSIA) and essential businesses coming tomorrow and would encourage review of that to extent applicable.

Washington has recognized the shortage in housing across the state, and we are part of the solution. We concur that residential construction can continue to operate while taking the utmost care for social distancing, protecting their employees, customers and grandparents. We know you will take this information into consideration as you continue to make critical decisions on behalf of all Washingtonians. This industry stands ready to continue its contribution to the state's COVID-19 response and the production of essential paper and other forest products that will be needed in the months to come.

Thank you,



Mark Doumit
Executive Director
Washington Forest Protection Association



Travis Joseph
President
American Forest Resource Council



Chris McCabe
Executive Director
NW Pulp and Paper Association



Heidi Brock
CEO & President
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