

March 20, 2020

Hon. Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
Chair, National Governor's Association
444 N. Capitol St. N.W., Ste. 267
Washington, D.C. 20001

Mr. Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor of Rochester Hills, Michigan
President, U.S. Conference of Mayors
1620 I St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Mr. Joe Buscaino
Councilmember, 15th District, Los Angeles
President, National League of Cities
660 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Ms. Mary Ann Borgeson
Commissioner, Douglas County, Nebraska
President, National Association of Counties
660 North Capitol Street, N.W., Ste. 400
Washington, D.C. 20001

Speaker Robin Vos
Speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly
President, National Conference of State Legislatures
444 North Capitol St., N.W., Ste. 515
Washington, D.C. 20001

Hon. Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas
National President, The Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511

Mr. Brandon Presley
Commissioner, Mississippi Public Service Commission
President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
1101 Vermont Ave., N.W., Ste. 200
Washington, D.C. 20005

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation's natural gas utilities continue to provide essential energy to homes and businesses while ensuring the safety of our employees and contractors. Whether through direct use of natural gas or natural gas-fired power generation, natural gas is an integral constituent of the Energy Sector and the fabric of the communities we serve.

The American Gas Association (AGA) and our members are requesting your organizations designate utility work as an essential service, utility workers as essential critical infrastructure workers, and your support to exempt utility operations and our essential personnel from work and travel limitations as our nation responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is responsible for providing strategic guidance as assigned under the Homeland Security Act of 2002. CISA recently published "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers," as a resource for 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. CISA has identified natural gas utility workers as "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" for the energy industry. Specific functions accompany the listing.

In order to continue to deliver natural gas to the 179 million Americans that depend on this valuable energy source, it is critical for utilities to have available the necessary personnel to ensure the continuation of all ongoing essential utility functions to meet current and future service needs and complete major project work in time for the next heating season. Our essential personnel are our employees and contractors needed to ensure the safe and continuing provision of natural gas service to homes and business throughout. This includes not only individuals who perform safety, compliance and customer service work, but also individuals who operate our gas control facilities, customer care centers, storage fields, those who are working on construction projects needed to maintain our system, and our field services teams needed to serve our customers who depend on natural gas for hot water, cooking and/or heating their premise.

AGA urges you to consider the vital and time-sensitive role essential natural gas utility workers play in your community resilience plans. We are ready and willing to work with you to develop model language that would clarify the essential services natural gas utilities deliver. We appreciate your attention in helping us ensuring our employees have the ability maintain our critical services during this national crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Harbert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "H".

President & CEO
American Gas Association