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  
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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,

[Signature]

President & CEO
American Gas Association