

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pence  
Vice President of the United States  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

We support prioritizing the healthcare sector for COVID-19 testing supplies, and as testing becomes more available and abundant, the undersigned organizations urge the federal government to provide COVID-19 testing resources to U.S. employers that are engaged in essential business services. Increased access to COVID-19 testing for our workforce will help flatten the curve by removing people with coronavirus from the workplace and better ensure the safety and health of employees who are maintaining operations during this pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced workplaces across the U.S. to close or limit operations to protect public health and safety. As of April 1, 55 states and territories had some closures of non-essential businesses,<sup>1</sup> and 28 states and territories have prohibited in-person workforces for non-essential businesses.<sup>2</sup> However, states and territories have deemed some businesses and sectors as “essential,” and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has issued guidance on the essential critical infrastructure workforce.<sup>3</sup>

Employees engaged in critical infrastructure and essential business are required to be at a physical worksite in some proximity to other employees and/or customers. We have a responsibility to ensure that they can perform their work in a safe environment, and access to testing would help us do so.

We are especially concerned by reports that as many as 25% of people infected with COVID-19 may not show any symptoms but can still spread the disease.<sup>4</sup> A lack of easily accessible COVID-19 testing means that some of our employees may unknowingly be coming to work and spreading the disease to their co-workers and the public.

We share your goals to keep our family, friends, neighbors and colleagues safe and healthy while allowing essential services to continue operation. Therefore, we ask for your help by providing access to testing and timely results for our employees.

Sincerely,

AES Corporation  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)  
American Public Gas Association  
American Staffing Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Trucking Associations  
Arizona Chapter National Safety Council  
Association of American Railroads  
Association of Energy Service Companies  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Board of Certified Safety Professionals

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nga.org/coronavirus>

<sup>2</sup> Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma (in counties with reported community spread), Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/31/health/coronavirus-asymptomatic-transmission.html>

Chesapeake Region Safety Council  
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance  
Council for Dredging & Marine Construction Safety  
CropLife America  
DEKRA NA Consulting  
Dredging Contractors of America  
Environmental Resources Management  
Florida Chamber Safety Council  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Houston Area Safety Council  
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
International Warehouse Logistics Association  
International Window Cleaning Association  
Iowa-Illinois Safety Council, Inc.  
ISN Software Corporation  
Knauf Insulation Inc.  
Laborers' Health & Safety Fund of North America  
Laborers' International Union of North America  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Minnesota Safety Council  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Cotton Council  
National Demolition Association, Inc.  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Safety Council  
National Safety Council Ark-La-Tex Chapter, Inc.  
National Safety Council of Northern New England  
National Safety Council Ohio Chapter  
National Safety Council, Nebraska  
National Waste and Recycling Association  
NENY Safety & Health Council  
North Dakota Safety Council  
Nutrien  
Oklahoma Safety Council  
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)  
Safety and Health Council of North Carolina  
Safety Council of Western New England  
Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)  
South Dakota Safety Council  
Southeastern Chapter National safety Council  
Tennessee Safety and Health Council  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Tree Care Industry Association  
United Fresh Produce Association  
USA Rice Federation  
USG Corporation  
Utah Safety Council  
Virginia Ship Repair Association  
Wisconsin Safety Council  
Wyoming Montana Safety Council

CC:

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Chad F. Wolf, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency