

Jay Timmons
President and CEO

April 15, 2020

His Excellency Andrés Manuel López Obrador
Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Plaza de la Constitución S/N,
Centro Histórico de la Cdad. de México, Centro, Cuauhtémoc,
06066 Ciudad de México, CDMX, México

Dear Presidente López Obrador:

The National Association of Manufacturers is the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing manufacturers of all sizes in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Many of these manufacturing companies are active participants in the Mexican economy, contributing directly to the well-being of citizens in Mexico and the United States.

We appreciate the critical steps that Mexico is taking to slow the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the health and safety of Mexico's citizens. The March 31 health emergency decree issued by the Ministry of Health aligns broadly with the intent of the Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The implementation of the decree, however, has resulted in the shuttering of essential manufacturing facilities across Mexico, including those that serve as the backbone to critical infrastructure across our continent, potentially weakening our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a time when we need to ramp up the production of personal protective equipment, lifesaving equipment and medicines, we cannot afford to have any of these critical supply chains shut down if Mexico does not issue guidance that expands and clarifies the industries that are essential. Across North America, our health care sectors depend on the many products that we make—from medicines, sanitation supplies and inputs used to produce respirators and masks to the grains used to make bread and critical parts that ensure trucks can deliver groceries.

As the NAM has shared directly with Mexican Ambassador to the United States Martha Bárcena Coqui and Ministry of Economy representatives in Washington, manufacturers are urging Mexico to recognize and reciprocate, for the purposes of determining if a manufacturer is designated as essential and critical, the U.S. CISA guidance, as a baseline, to the maximum extent possible. By doing so, Mexico will help ensure that (a) manufacturers of essential and critical products and components can continue operations in Mexico and (b) disruptions to the North American manufacturing supply chain are kept to a minimum at this critical time.

Manufacturers recognize the importance of taking all measures to protect workers and their communities, while also protecting the supply chains that enable the delivery of essential goods across North America, including under the North American Free Trade Agreement, and in the near future, the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns as manufacturers join the collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues in more detail with you and your staff at a time of your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jay Timmons

CC: The Honorable Dr. Jorge Alcocer Varela
Secretary of Health
Government of Mexico

The Honorable Marcelo Ebrard
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Government of Mexico

The Honorable Dra. Graciela Márquez Colín
Secretary of Economy
Government of Mexico

The Honorable Luisa María Alcalde Luján
Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare
Government of Mexico

The Honorable Martha Bárcena Coqui
Mexican Ambassador to the United States