



March 19, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The [Plastics Industry Association \(PLASTICS\)](#) recognizes the challenges everyone, including elected officials, health administrators and others, are facing in making tough decisions aimed at protecting communities in the U.S. as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to grow. We appreciate the efforts you and others have undertaken to slow the spread of this virus and keep the American public safe.

The nearly one million employees of the plastics industry in this country are working tirelessly to provide the material and products that are needed at the frontlines. From medical supplies to food packaging, our material is essential in the effort to stop the spread of this virus. Plastic will only become more vital to help keep our families and communities healthy, our food fresh and protected and our healthcare workers safe.

For these reasons, we implore you to designate the plastics industry as “essential”, not only because of the \$451.33 billion impact on the economy of this great country but also as the key to ultimately winning the battle against this pandemic.

Many of the products consumers need during this time are made of plastics or packaged in plastic. From drug packaging to packaging for medical devices, as well as many of the medical devices themselves, plastics are essential to ensuring the safety of the healthcare workforce, patients and consumers. Plastics keep medical devices clean and protected and are inert, so they do not interact with the device or drug. In return, these medical devices do not expose us to contamination and infection. Plastic packaging also helps reduce food-related contamination, while allowing people who do not have refrigeration or proper food storage to safely get the nutrients they need. This is crucial in keeping our food supplies safe and accessible during this pandemic. Additionally, many of the products we use to clean our homes, schools, hospitals and public places are packaged in, delivered in and/ or applied using plastic.



Plastics play a critical role in our hygiene routines from the toothpaste tube and brush to the packaging for our soaps, hand-sanitizer, toilet papers and other essential products. It is critical to our efforts against this virus, and all transmittable diseases, that our industry's ability to manufacture these products not be interrupted.

Our members are working together to share best practices to keep their employees and the consumers they serve safe. We stand united with you and all of our nation's leaders to do what we can to help us get through this difficult period and come out as a stronger nation together. We must continue to keep our healthcare workers protected and well stocked with the supplies they need. The material of choice to do that is plastic and our industry is ready to meet the challenge. Again, we ask that you designate plastic industry operations as "essential" during this critical time.

I would be happy to discuss this further if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to be a resource to you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Radoszewski".

Tony Radoszewski, CAE
President and CEO
Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS)

CC: Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Governors of the United States