

Jay Timmons
President and CEO

March 22, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

I am writing to urge you to extend the deadline, currently set for 8:00 am tomorrow, for enforcing your Order regarding the “Closure of All Businesses That Are Not Life Sustaining” dated March 19, 2020, as your office continues to work with manufacturers to clarify its guidance for how manufacturers can best contribute their essential response to our national coronavirus pandemic.

Many governors and state governments have worked with manufacturers to help our industry understand how best to safely wind down to minimum basic operations while remaining vital and functional. The vast majority of those states have done so by adopting federal guidance prepared by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and building from that to offer additional clarity for manufacturers to help understand how they can best respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

Unfortunately, manufacturers still suffer from a great deal of uncertainty about how the Pennsylvania rules impact their ability to operate safely and healthfully on a day-to-day basis. A March 22 news report¹ suggested that officials are responding to more than 10,000 inquiries on a case-by-case basis. Numerous manufacturers have not yet received a response to their inquiries and may be forced to close – putting both the production and supply chain of many vital products at risk of being delayed.

Because manufacturers in Pennsylvania still need to understand how the state’s guidance impacts their operation before the enforcement deadline, we ask you to again delay enforcement while these rules are clarified. I must reiterate that an alternative approach would be to adopt the CISA guidance recently prepared by the Department of Homeland Security and add to that additional guidance affecting manufacturers. The states of Illinois, Louisiana and Ohio have done this so far, in a productive way and I encourage you to consider their approaches.

I respectfully urge you to immediately delay the enforcement of your “stay in place” order. I appreciate your continued cooperation and consideration as manufacturers in Pennsylvania join with the rest of our nation to help lead our nation’s response to this historic challenge.

Sincerely,



Jay Timmons

CC: David Taylor, Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association

ⁱ <https://www.pennlive.com/coronavirus/2020/03/business-rebellion-approaching-10000-pennsylvania-companies-have-sought-exemptions-from-gov-tom-wolfs-coronavirus-closure-orders.html>