

March 19, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned organizations, applaud the Administration and Congress for their swift actions to mitigate the impact of the unfolding Coronavirus pandemic. As our nation deals with this unprecedented public health crisis, we would like to emphasize to you and our senior government leaders that the transportation and goods movement industry stands ready and able to play a pivotal role in promoting economic growth while assisting with pandemic healthcare relief.

Commercial transportation firms will be essential in our country's ability to restore economic health, vitality and a return to everyday life. As the federal, state and local governments take steps to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, it is crucial that such actions do not inadvertently encumber the vital role of package and mail delivery services. We therefore write to encourage you, the Vice President, and the Coronavirus Task Force to reaffirm that transportation and shipping service providers, to include air, ground and ocean networks, are critical industries that should not be hindered by unnecessary restrictions impeding our ability to deliver.

Transportation service providers and shipping/postal operators have already been recognized by the Department of Homeland Security and Presidential Policy Directives as Critical Infrastructure industries. All of these firms utilize sophisticated networks of transportation modes including aviation, rail, ocean and truck to provide final-mile delivery for consumer goods, food, medical supplies and devices, among other items. Given the current disruption to the daily life of many Americans, there is even greater demand, and reliance upon, our services. Our organizations have implemented increased measures to ensure the safety of our people, our customers, and the general public.

It is imperative that precautionary actions taken by federal, state or municipal governments do not impose unnecessary burdens or logistical complications on package and mail delivery services, or on the people that provide those services, including our pilots, couriers, hub operators and truck drivers. Such unintended negative consequences will hamper our ability to reach businesses and consumers that are relying upon timely and dependable delivery. Neither restrictive public policies that impede interstate commerce (i.e. – Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution) should be enacted, nor should new local government initiatives create a regulatory patchwork that hinders operational efficiency.

Mr. President, the spread of the Coronavirus in the U.S. is testing government institutions, challenging private industry, and placing inordinate demands on our fellow citizens. As our nation mobilizes to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, we ask that you and your Coronavirus Task Force reiterate the valuable role our firms play in this regard, and discourage states and localities from implementing public policies that restrict our ability to serve the American people.

We stand ready and willing to continue this important service to our nation, and will continue to work with federal, state and local governments in a coordinated fashion to help our employees deliver for America in the safest possible manner while also keeping our employees and the customers they serve safe too.

Sincerely,




Chris Spear
President & CEO
American Trucking Associations



Frederick W. Smith
Chairman and CEO
FedEx



David Abney
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
UPS



Megan J. Brennan
Postmaster General, CEO
United States Postal Service