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The Forest Products industry supplies basic necessities ranging from diapers, toilet paper, paper towels, paper cups and plates to panels, lumber, transmission poles, pallets and packaging used to transport over 90% of all goods, foods, and medical supplies so desperately needed during these critical times. We wholeheartedly agree with and endorse Texas Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-12 issued 3/29/2020 and the federal guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security entitled "Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response" which includes the forestry industry, transportation, and materials in its list of critical industries that are recommended to remain operational in the event of any shelter-in-place order. In this situation, it is critical not only to keep our manufacturing assets operational (such as pulp and paper, lumber, transmission poles, and pallet mills), but other integral parts of the forest products supply chain such as our logging and trucking force that keep the manufacturers supplied with raw materials and stores stocked with products.

Executive Order BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS; Executive Department; Austin, Texas; March 29, 2020; EXECUTIVE ORDER; GA12

Relating to roadway screening and self-quarantine during the COVID-19 disaster. Every person who enters the State of Texas through roadways from Louisiana, or from any other state as may be proclaimed hereafter, shall be subject to mandatory self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into Texas or the duration of the person's presence in Texas, whichever is shorter. **This order to self-quarantine shall not apply to people traveling in connection with commercial activity**, military service, emergency response, health response, or **critical-infrastructure functions**, as may be determined by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

TFA also appreciates Texas Department of Agriculture's Commissioner Sid Miller for issuing a "TDA Agriculture Critical Infrastructure" for all sectors of Texas Agriculture. (AGRICULTURE CODE, TITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 2. STATE AGRICULTURAL POLICY, Sec. 2.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter, "agriculture" means: (1) the cultivation of the soil to produce crops; (2) horticulture, floriculture, or viticulture; (3) **forestry**; or (4) the raising or keeping of livestock or poultry.)

Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response. Version 1.0 (March 19, 2020)

IDENTIFYING ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution

Transportation and Logistics

- Manufacturers and distributors (to include service centers and related operations) of packaging materials, pallets, crates, containers, and other supplies needed to support manufacturing, packaging staging and distribution operations

Kind regards,

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