



**American
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Thomas J. Gibson
President and Chief Executive Officer

March 18, 2020

The Vice President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the U.S. producer member companies of the American Iron and Steel Institute and the nearly two million U.S. workers directly or indirectly dependent on our critical industry, I write to urge the Trump administration to identify the steel manufacturing sector and its workers as “essential” when drafting and enforcing shelter-in-place orders and other directives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate the efforts of the administration to limit the spread and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As businesses across the nation have been ordered by many state and local governments to limit or cease operations in recent days, several states, such as New Jersey and Pennsylvania, have specifically exempted industrial manufacturing as “essential.” We urge the Trump administration to provide consistent nationwide guidance by formally recognizing critical manufacturing sectors that are essential to our country’s critical infrastructure and the response to COVID-19.

The risk advisory body of the U.S. government, the Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), already lists the iron, steel and ferro-alloy manufacturing sector as a critical manufacturing sector. The iron and steel manufacturing sector is vital to several other critical infrastructure sectors including transportation, energy and public water suppliers as a provider of critical materials. Indeed, as the Secretary of Commerce determined in 2018, steel is important to national security well beyond obvious defense applications to encompass critical infrastructure and transportation, electric power and energy generation systems, as well as water systems. Without access to a reliable source of steel production during this crisis, our national and economic security will be severely impacted.

Steel manufacturing in this country is likewise essential to the vital infrastructure necessary to combat the deepening COVID-19 crisis, as our country’s public health and welfare depend on robust access to critical infrastructure. It is therefore critical that steel manufacturing facilities and the workers employed by U.S. steel mills be exempt

The Vice President

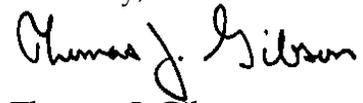
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from shelter-in-place and other such requirements imposed by federal, state and local governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the Trump administration continues to take decisive action aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19, we ask that steel manufacturing facilities and their workers in the U.S. be recognized as "essential" to the nation's COVID-19 pandemic response. We also request that you encourage state and local governments to make the same designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas J. Gibson