

Notes for Call with Governor Cooper

23 March 2020

Governor Cooper, on behalf of NCMA and our member companies across the state, 7 of whom are represented on the call this morning, we want to thank you for your thoughtful and steady leadership during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Quite a few of our companies, including some who are on the line today, have been dealing with these issues in other countries around the globe for some time.

We have asked for this time today to make you aware of the responsible steps that we are taking as manufacturers who care about our employees and our communities; and to solicit your guidance on additional actions that we might take to be helpful to you and to compliment your efforts.

I have been asked to share with you some of the actions our companies are taking, some thoughts that we have about future actions that you might need to take, and some recommendations for you to consider.

Our companies have instituted aggressive work at home requirements where possible, re-designed work spaces to practice social distancing, implemented aggressive travel restrictions, eliminated most in-person meetings, encouraged and supported employees who are not feeling well to stay home, provided on site temperature monitors, and other similar actions to protect their employees and their workplaces.

We know that if Covid-19 continues to spread, you may be forced to take even more aggressive actions than have been taken to date in NC, including possibly a shelter in place order.

If you were to determine that such an action is necessary, we respectfully ask that you give serious consideration to following the US DHS CISA guidance (Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency) on defining essential businesses, and in particular, essential manufacturing businesses.

- Executive Orders by Gov Lamont in Connecticut, Gov Pritzker in Illinois, and most other states that have adopted shelter in place orders have followed the CISA guidance.
- Governor Wolf in PA initially issued his shelter in place order using a more narrow definition of essential business, but our understanding is that he is now having to walk it back.
- The CISA Guidance acknowledges the importance of the supply chain businesses – the businesses that are essential suppliers of the goods and services necessary to keep the essential manufacturers operating.
- Also, today's manufacturing economy operates on a "just in time" supply chain. You won't find many manufacturers stockpiling inventory.
- We think it's important to our companies and to their local communities for us to acknowledge that for those manufacturers that do not meet the definition of being essential may still need to have some critical staff on their sites to manage security, for fire prevention, conduct hazardous materials monitoring, etc. and monitor and support systems that are not easily or quickly shut down.
- Also, we would ask that any order you might issue include a pathway for a manufacturer that has been classified as non-essential to request for reconsideration as provided in Gov Lamont's order in Connecticut.

Governor, our companies very much feel like we are all in this together. They have taken aggressive actions and will continue to be proactive going forward.

They very much want to be supportive of your efforts and look forward to hearing what they can do to be of additional assistance to you and your administration.