March 20, 2020

The White House
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Vice President Pence:

On behalf of Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) and the more than 460,000 men and women who comprise the U.S plumbing manufacturing industry, I am writing to urge the Trump administration to identify plumbing manufacturers, their supply chains, and 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. During this time of crisis, plumbing manufacturers in America continue operating while doing everything possible to assure the health and safety of their employees, their families and their communities. Plumbing infrastructure is critical for public health and sanitation. Plumbing manufacturers produce key products and components for our drinking water and wastewater systems.

PMI, the nation’s leading trade association for plumbing fixtures and fittings manufacturing industry. Producing 90 percent of the United States’ plumbing products and representing more than 150 brands, PMI’s members are industry leaders in manufacturing innovative, reliable, and water-efficient plumbing products and related supplies.

Our highly-engineered plumbing products, sold and distributed in all 50 states, include toilets, faucets, showerheads, bathtubs, sinks, urinals, drinking fountains, as well as hundreds of types of components, valves and piping, which are critical to our nation’s plumbing systems. Our members supply these essential products to residential, commercial and not-for-profit customers, including hospitals, nursing homes, schools, restaurants, hotels, manufacturing facilities, correctional facilities, and military bases. The industry produces a number of products that are essential during a public health crisis including toilets, faucets, valves and piping, as well as emergency eye wash stations and emergency showers vital to first responders.

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 water and
wastewater systems as a critical sector. The plumbing manufacturing sector is a vital subset of the water sector. In addition, CISA has identified plumbers as essential critical infrastructure workers “who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences,” as our nation responds to the threat of COVID-19. These plumbers need access to these plumbing products our members produce. Furthermore, our plumbing products are carried at home improvement stores and hardware stores across the nation which have been designated as essential businesses.

The country is depending on the many things our members make, as a consequence, the plumbing manufacturing industry, its supply chain and workers should be designated as “essential” by state, local and federal governments as they consider any upcoming or ongoing shelter-in-place orders.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. Plumbing manufacturers are eager to continue supporting our country and our economy during this time of crisis. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephanie Salmon in the PMI Washington Office at ssalmondc@gmail.com or 202-452-7135, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Kerry Stackpole, FASAE CAE
CEO/Executive Director
Plumbing Manufacturers International
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cc: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
    Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer
    Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
    House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
    PMI Board of Directors

PMI Members

*Bradley Corporation *CSA Group *Delta Faucet Company *Duravit USA *Fisher Manufacturing Company
*TOTO USA *Viega LLC *WaterPik *WCM Industries, Inc

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