March 20, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor of Maryland  
Chair, National Governor’s Association  
444 N. Capitol St. NW, Ste. 267  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Mr. Bryan K. Barnett  
Mayor of Rochester Hills, Michigan  
President, US Conference of Mayors  
1620 I St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Mr. Joe Buscaino  
Councilmember, 15th district, Los Angeles  
President, National League of Cities  
660 North Capitol Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001

Ms. Mary Ann Borgeson  
Commissioner, Douglas County, Nebraska  
President, National Association of Counties  
660 North Capitol Street NW, suite 400  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Governor Hogan, Mayor Barnett, Councilmember Buscaino and Commissioner Borgeson:

During this time of crisis, the U.S. aluminum industry is striving to operate essential facilities while doing everything possible to assure the health and safety of workers, their families and their communities nationwide. The country is depending on the metal our industry makes to support aerospace, transportation, construction, defense, packaging, infrastructure and many other segments of the U.S. economy.

The aluminum industry produces materials and products that are essential during a public health crisis including inputs for medical supplies, building materials, transportation equipment, and food and beverage packaging. The aluminum industry is recognized by the Department of Homeland Security as a core part of the critical manufacturing sector, and the Departments of Commerce and Defense found the industry to be “vital” to national security. Additionally, aluminum is designated as a critical mineral by the federal government.

Therefore, I am requesting your support to encourage states and localities to designate all aluminum facilities and their employees as “essential infrastructure” and “essential businesses.” As states and localities consider restrictions on businesses and individuals in order to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus, we encourage officials to adopt guidance from the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to grant exceptions for those who work to maintain critical infrastructure in the sectors that are vital to national security, economic security and public health or safety. Furthermore, we strongly urge state and local officials to coordinate in order to provide clear, consistent and aligned guidance to businesses as our nation responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is imperative that governors, states, counties and cities ensure that aluminum industry operations and employees are designated as “essential” and clearly exempted from any “shelter in place” orders during the
current COVID-19 pandemic.

We are ready and willing to work together to support this effort and appreciate your urgent attention in order to keep aluminum facilities open and operating safely during this national crisis.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tom Dobbins
President and CEO
The Aluminum Association