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March 23, 2020

Governor Ron DeSantis  
400 S Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of the Manufacturers Association of Florida, Florida's premier state association for the manufacturing industry, we applaud your efforts and actions for our state in the midst of this large scale pandemic.

Florida is home to more than 20,000 manufacturing companies with 388,700 Floridians working everyday to keep our state producing and economically thriving. The health and wellbeing of our state is crucial and the manufacturing industry has been vital to producing critical supplies and support for Florida's families. While addressing the needs of our residents and visitors, our industry has taken great steps to ensure the safety and health of our employees and companies. Additional health protocols, best practices, and adherence to all CDC guidelines are being strictly enforced across the manufacturing industry.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, Florida's manufacturing industry has been working around the clock to provide essential support to our communities, state, and nation. Defense, aerospace, electronics, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and essential daily living products are made and sourced by Florida manufacturers.

We are requesting your support to designate all Florida manufacturing facilities, supply chains (to include freight rail transport, freight trucking, seaports and airports) and their employees as "critical industry" and "essential businesses" in order to keep the manufacturing industry operational during this great time of need.

As the future of this pandemic is unknown, it is imperative that a strong stance on "essential businesses" and support of the manufacturing industry is established. Should our state or cities enter into any form of restrictive lifestyle, we stand united as an industry ready to continue our consistent support by providing the products needed to continue a healthy way of life for Florida. We share a common goal, to protect Florida's residents and visitors, and defining manufacturing as a "critical industry" does this in two ways: ensuring financial security for 388,700 Florida families during a time when many are facing job insecurity, and by keeping the supply chain flowing with essential products for the healthiest future of our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Bowen  
Executive Director