March 24, 2020

<Local Government Address>

RE: Consistent Designation of Essential Critical Infrastructure Worker Recommendations

Dear Mayor/Chairman:

Thank you for your steadfast leadership in our community to combat the COVID-19 pandemic to secure Georgia’s future. The state’s business community stands firm in our commitment to be a trusted partner as we navigate this time of uncertainty. To be certain, stopping the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on Georgians remains a top priority. However, as we navigate this temporary and unprecedented situation, it is imperative that our community allow the operation of critical and essential services. This is extremely important as necessary supplies continue to flow through the state and must be delivered to those individuals fighting on the frontlines of this pandemic. The designation of an essential business will substantially impact how our state weathers this crisis both short- and long-term.

The \_\_\_\_fill in name here\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chamber of Commerce, along with the Georgia Chamber and the U.S. Chamber believe a baseline standard received from employers is what will be categorized as “essential businesses”. We, the Georgia Chamber and the U.S. Chamber believe a baseline standard for this designation is the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response dated March 19, 2020 and enclosed in this letter.

I would ask that as you explore the implementation of “shelter-in-place” ordinances, that you will consider adopting the enclosed federal guidelines defining “essential businesses”, and allow individuals employed by those industry sectors to continue working to provide the invaluable goods and services needed to help the state address the pandemic from both a health care and economic perspective. By adopting this interpretation, our hope is to mitigate supply chain disruptions that could leave Georgians vulnerable in their greatest times of need.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and continued leadership during these difficult times. We value your partnership with the business community to place our state in the best position for effective response to the COVID-19 crisis and ensure our economic recovery.

Sincerely,

<Your Name>

President and CEO