



March 26, 2020

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
Office of the Director
Washington, DC 20528

Cc: Vice President Pence

Dear Director Krebs,

On behalf of the paperboard packaging industry, the Paperboard Packaging Alliance commends the Department of Homeland Security for asserting the essential nature of packaging manufacturing in our nation's supply chain. A joint initiative between the American Forest & Paper Association and the Paperboard Packaging Council, the Alliance represents the manufacturers of paperboard packaging (like cereal and tissue boxes). With the designation of "essential," our members can continue to produce vital packaging to keep grocery shelves filled, medicines in stock, and other life necessities available.

An approximately \$10 billion industry, paperboard packaging ensures the availability of consumer staples across the United States. Almost 60% of all paperboard is destined for food and beverage product packaging—a trip to the grocery store reveals shelves and shelves of paper boxes.

Yet another substantial portion of our product goes to packaging medical devices, medicines, pharmaceuticals, personal care, and sanitary products. Gloves, masks, as well as other PPE are today being shipped to medical professionals in paperboard. And, as we speak, one manufacturer of paperboard packaging, Royal Paper Box in Montebello, CA, is supplying Gilead Sciences with the packaging for their COVID-19 treatment, Remdesivir.

Paperboard packaging manufacturers and their suppliers are working hard to maintain or increase production of boxes to keep store shelves and online retailers supplied with essential products—especially those medical, pharmaceutical, and sanitary items that consumers need now more than ever.

Paperboard Packaging Alliance
American Forrester & Paper Association | Paperboard Packaging Council
1101 K St NW, Washington D.C. 20005

Disruption in the availability of these goods would cause significant hardships to consumers across the country who depend on steady and stable supplies. Our industry is committed to continuing operation under the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration—and we again thank the Department of Homeland Security for support and leadership.

Sincerely,

American Forest & Paper Association

Heidi Brock
President & CEO
(202) 463-5175

Paperboard Packaging Council

Ben Markens
President
(413) 686-9191