March 21, 2020

To: PMA California Members

On March 20, 2020 at 10:36 p.m., the State of California further updated the public on the expanded stay-at-home restrictions (Executive Order N-33-20) that went into effect on Thursday, March 19. Earlier in the week, six Northern California counties issued their own restrictions that effectively shuttered all manufacturers except those supplying health care operations.

This caused significant confusion for several days until, on Thursday evening, Governor Newsom adopted a federal guideline on critical infrastructure. Following the six counties’ action, PMA’s advocacy team Washington, D.C. began lobbying the White House for a nationwide definition of which businesses should remain open, which they did, just 48 hours later on Thursday.

While the definition of essential critical infrastructure workers is not binding on states, California did adopt the new standards across all of its 58 counties. The workers covered under the definition include virtually all of those PMA requested to be included, with the possible exception of those businesses exclusively manufacturing lawn and garden equipment, sporting goods and a few others.

The new definitions for which California manufacturing businesses include “medical supply chains, transportation, energy, communications, food and agriculture, chemical manufacturing, nuclear facilities, the operation of dams, water and wastewater treatment, emergency services, and the defense industrial base” (see Critical Manufacturing page 11) also including defense subcontractors (see Defense Industrial Base page 14).

PMA in Washington, D.C. is continuing to work with the White House and Congress to provide the resources members need in these uncertain times. Our advocacy team has developed a list of 10 recommendations for the COVID-19 Phase 3 economic stimulus legislation moving rapidly through the Congress. Based on a flash survey of members conducted, the recommendations include solutions to help with cash flow, prompt payment terms to suppliers for companies receiving federal funds, ensuring banks do not revoke existing lines of credit, and making sure manufacturers have the resources to continue operations and quickly ramp up production after the crisis wanes.

In Washington and around the country, PMA will continue lobbying our government officials and monitor the rapidly evolving situation to keep members informed about the latest developments (the new paid sick leave/FMLA law takes effect April 2).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.