



Dear President Trump,

The professional pest control industry is an essential service and is responsible for the protection of public health, food and property. We help care for the most vulnerable populations by keeping hospitals, nursing homes and schools free of pests that carry disease. As an essential service industry, we will continue to protect the nation's food production facilities, grocery stores, medical institutions, multifamily housing units, warehouses, homes and businesses, so that the population can safely practice social distancing.

**We ask you to consider pest management an essential service should any quarantines or business closures take effect at the federal level.**

We cannot afford to have our medical facilities, groceries stores or homes uninhabitable due to pests and pest related diseases. There is not a segment of the food industry that could comply with federal sanitation and health regulations without an adequate pest control program.

The pest control industry is trained, tested and certified in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Technicians routinely employ the use respirators, eye protection, gloves, and clothing to conform with safety requirements established by EPA and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. With over 135,000 service technicians on the ground in the United States backed by over 19,000 companies, we stand ready to continue our fight against pests and diseases.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have prepared a list of significant public health pests <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/list-pests-significant-public-health-importance>, many of which are controlled by the professional pest control industry. We play a vital role in protecting our nation's public health and food supply. Pests can spread diseases such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, salmonellosis, hantavirus and encephalitis. Stinging insects force half a million people to the emergency room every year. Cockroach and rodent allergens trigger asthma attacks in children; rodents contaminate or consume about 20% of the world's food supply and bed bugs can cause allergic reactions. The importance of the pest control industry to the nation as an essential service cannot be understated. With Covid-19 on the mind of all US citizens, and the world, we want to be sure we continue to serve the country in our battle with the diseases spread by pests.

**As you consider next steps regarding emergency response and potential restrictions on business operations, we respectfully request that the pest control industry be recognized as an essential industry, providing a service that is indispensable in the effort to protect public health and our nation's food supply.**

Sincerely,

Dominique Stumpf

CEO, National Pest Management Association

Cell: 703.887.1089