



March 31, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Gov. Wolf,

The Greater Reading Chamber Alliance is joining the call for you to alter the order defining “life sustaining” businesses and conform with recent U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance¹ issued on March 28, 2020 that considers construction as “life sustaining” and critical. We are also asking you to make the “life sustaining” business waiver process more transparent by posting all waivers, approved, denied, and in process, online.

Following your amended order on March 30, 2020 that now requires the closure of “non-life sustaining” businesses to be extended for an indefinite timeframe, it is paramount to identify and deploy proven solutions such as existing federal guidance. This would help by giving clearer guidance to those businesses and citizens who continue to have questions. This clarity would also greatly benefit the agency staff who have been trying to process the flood of waivers and are now needed to pivot to the reviewing and approving the increasing number of COVID -19 Working Capital Access (CWCA) loans and other programs.

We, in partnership with our nearly 1,000 member companies, understand the pressure you and your administration are under with this unprecedented crisis, and we appreciate all that you are doing to work with our businesses and to protect the health and safety of our citizens. We are doing our part to assist our area businesses, locate existing stock and retool businesses to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE), and support the individuals impacted by this crisis. We are asking you and your administration to make some strategic decisions that will positively benefit everyone and add efficiency to the process as we navigate through this next month and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gerlach", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Gerlach
CEO, Greater Reading Chamber Alliance

1
https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf Advisory Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During Covid-19 Response