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March 31, 2020

Delegate Todd Gilbert
Pocahontas Building
900 East Main St
Richmond Virginia 23219

Re: Virginia Governor's Executive Order Number 53

Dear Delegate Gilbert,

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Carwash Association, please transmit this letter to the appropriate state officials.

While we appreciate the gravity of the COVID-19 situation and applaud the Governor's efforts to manage our state through this crisis, we non-the-less feel that we are an Essential Business by definition. There are aspects of the car wash industry that can easily comply with the 6' social distance rule and the 10 person group limit. Even though we are allowed to conduct business under current order, sales are much diminished. But at least our employees can keep working. It is for this reason that we respectfully request that car washing be considered an Essential Business under the "auto repair and maintenance" under the federal guidance dated March 19, 2020.

The car wash industry in Virginia provides thousands of jobs through small businesses that are locally owned and operated. Many of the workers are low skilled and live paycheck to paycheck. Their lives are very dependent on the continued operation of the car wash.

Professional car washes provide a safe environment to clean your vehicle while maintaining a safe distance from others. For example:

1. First Responders need to clean their vehicles to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
2. Express Tunnel Car Washes require the customer to stay in their car and avoid exposure to others.
3. Automatic Car Washes also require the customer to stay in their car and avoid exposure to others.
4. Self Service Car Washes allow the customer to wash their vehicle in an individual bay away from others. This is like pumping gas in your car, but with greater space between patrons.
5. Full Serve Car Washes often can function as an express tunnel and keep the customer isolated from exposure to others.
6. This is a Cleaning Business; we understand the importance of maintaining a clean and safe environment.
7. Pollen Season is early this year, which affects people with respiratory issues. Cleaning off the pollen will help those individuals.
8. There is minimal contact between our employees and customers, and it can be managed.

We recommend as car wash best practice:

1. Clean and sanitize systems and surfaces throughout the day.
2. Maintain the 6' social distance between customers.
3. Maintain the 6' social distance between staff.
4. Staff should wash their hands every 2 hours, and more often as needed.
5. Staff should wear gloves at all times.

It is our hope that when looked at in the light presented that it will seem reasonable to include car washing among the Essential Businesses category.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.H. Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

President, Mid-Atlantic Carwash Association
Serving Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and Washington DC.
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