



National Electrical Manufacturers Association

KEVIN J. COSGRIFF

President and Chief Executive Officer

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce

The Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

Dear Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Ross, and Acting Secretary Wolf:

I am writing to introduce the electroindustry to you and to share our essential industry's view regarding COVID-19 pandemic response activities in Mexico and the United States. In that regard our Members are encouraged by the commitment to cross-border cooperation in these unparalleled times.

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) is the U.S. trade association representing the interests of the U.S. electrical products and medical imaging industries. Our 325 member companies provide the products and systems that supply power to every aspect of human endeavor while promoting effective health care imaging services for screening, diagnosis and treatment. Employment in Mexico in the manufacture of electrical equipment was approximately 255,000 in 2019, while U.S. employment topped 370,000 workers.

Our Member companies manufacture essential equipment and materials in factories that supply other sectors that are themselves essential. The list of products that serve these essential sectors is long, including medical imaging equipment used in hospitals and clinics; equipment sold to utilities for the generation and distribution of electricity such as wire, cable, and transformers; fire and life safety equipment; building controls; lighting of all types; motors; batteries; circuit breakers; ground fault circuit interrupters; fuses; and many others.

We have been closely monitoring the announcements and other communications from Presidents Trump and Manuel Lopez Obrador, their Public Health staffs, and others. You and we are in full agreement that the top concern needs to be the health and safety of Mexican and American citizens generally and workers employed in our manufacturing facilities specifically. That is why at our factories we are taking extensive precautions such as thermal screening, mandatory

Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Ross and
Acting Secretary Wolf
April 29, 2020
Page 2

masks, hand cleaning, and social distancing on the factory floor and during transportation. Additionally, we are keeping at home those employees who may be particularly vulnerable such as those with underlying health conditions, those of advanced age, and pregnant women. These actions have been taken voluntarily and in conformity with applicable government decrees. We are confident that our Members are taking prudent and effective steps to ensure the continued health and safety of our workers, their families, and society at large.

Even as large segments of our populations are increasingly required to “stay home”, we need to avoid inadvertent constraints on essential manufacturing and distribution imposed by well-meaning policy decisions. Electrical systems rely on the ready supply of critical components as well as regular maintenance and repair by qualified experts. Emergency measures that impede this flow of goods and services through our interlocked cross-border supply chains will likely have unintended consequences and must be avoided. Industry leaders in both the United States and Mexico are doing all they can in this regard.

We are concerned about recent closures of essential plants in several States in Mexico. This has led to confusion over the specific criteria for these actions and what remedies are available for prompt reopening. We would ask that you make representation to your Mexican counterparts in this regard and emphasize the urgent need for clarity even as you work to harmonize definitions and other coordination matters on both sides of the border.

As partners to the U.S. government here and our counterpart association in Mexico Camara Nacional de Manufacturas Electricas (CANAME), we stand ready to meet with you (or your designees) to clarify how we can achieve our mutually important goals together. Government and industry need to remain closely aligned as we work through our shared pandemic responses so that the best options are chosen to keep people safe and society productive.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of these matters, and we look forward to early productive discussions.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Cosgriff
President and CEO

Cc: The Honorable Martha Bárcena Coqui, Mexico Ambassador to the United States
The Honorable Christopher Landau, United States Ambassador to Mexico