

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Christopher Krebs
Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Wolf and Director Krebs:

As our country works to meet the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to first thank you and everyone at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for your efforts to ensure that our country and its citizens remain healthy and safe during this crisis.

I read with interest your March 19, 2020 “Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response” which outlined the DHS recommendations for states, local governments and other decisionmakers to follow regarding the industries that need to be prioritized to remain open and operational as critical infrastructure.

On behalf of America’s Power and our members that represent the major industries—electricity generators, coal producers, railroads, barge operators, and equipment manufacturers—involved in generating electricity from coal, I respectfully urge you to update the list to include and reference the importance of the supply chain that supports our nation’s fleet of coal-fired power plants, which provide almost one quarter of the nation’s electricity.

Given the “uniquely critical” nature of the energy sector—which includes the coal fleet—in providing an “enabling function” for every other aspect of our society, an explicit reference to the supply chain that supports the coal fleet should be added to your list.

During this crisis, it is essential to ensure that reliable and resilient supplies of electricity are available to help maintain a sense of normalcy and support critical functions. By maintaining a large stockpile of coal at each power plant, the coal fleet is one of the nation’s most fuel-secure and, therefore, reliable and resilient sources of electricity.

In short, the coal fleet and its supply chain are essential to maintaining the resilience and reliability of the electricity grid which is critical to supporting hospitals, health care providers, and others on the frontline. Given the recent uncertainty facing other energy sources, maintaining reliable, stable and affordable coal supplies is more important than ever.

Therefore, we urge you to encourage state and local governments to keep the coal supply chain open because it is essential to maintaining our nation’s coal fleet in these challenging

times. Please let me know if we can provide additional information as you review and update the list of essential critical industries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle A. Bloodworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Michelle Bloodworth
President and CEO
America's Power

cc: Dan Brouillette, Secretary of the Department of Energy
Mary Neumayr, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality
Francis Brooke, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy