

April 8, 2020

Governor John Bel Edwards
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards:

I am writing on behalf of America's Power to make sure you are aware that the nation's fleet of coal-fueled power plants and its supply chain were added on March 28 to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) list of "[essential critical infrastructure](#)" that needs to remain operational during the COVID-19 crisis.

America's Power represents the major industries that are involved in producing electricity from coal.

The DHS list includes industries that are necessary to support public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The list is a clear indication of how important it is to support the continued operation of the coal fleet and the industries that comprise the fleet's supply chain — coal production, rail and barge transportation, equipment suppliers, and others — during and after the current crisis.

Long before the COVID-19 crisis, the nation's fleet of coal-fueled power plants and its supply chain demonstrated that it is an essential part of our electricity supply by helping to assure the electricity grid is both reliable and resilient, providing fuel security, serving as an insurance policy against electricity shortages and price spikes, producing affordable electricity, contributing to fuel diversity, and supporting national security.

America's Power sends our thoughts and prayers to you and the citizens of Louisiana during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Michelle Bloodworth
President and CEO