

April 2, 2020

Governor Doug Burgum
Office of Governor
State of North Dakota
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0001

Dear Governor Burgum:

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 recently 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 its supply chain during this crisis. Both are important to North Dakota and its citizens. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to add coal-fueled power plants and the industries that comprise their supply chain — coal production, rail and barge transportation, equipment suppliers, and any others that you feel are appropriate — to any list of essential critical industries, if your state has not already done so.

Long before the COVID-19 crisis, the nation's fleet of coal-fueled power plants 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 thanks you for your leadership during this crisis and for recognizing the value of the coal fleet both during and after this uniquely challenging time.

Sincerely,



Michelle Bloodworth
President and CEO