



**Chemical Industry
Council of Illinois**

March 19, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois

Dear Governor Pritzker,

On behalf of the members of the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois (CICI), thank you for your leadership during this time of great challenge and uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 crisis. Our many Illinois-based companies have been extremely diligent in helping to protect their employees and customers by implementing science-based measures to protect public health, while following all applicable federal or state requirements.

As the voice for Illinois' business of chemistry (and more than 185,000 Illinois employees supported by our industry), CICI believes it is important to reiterate the essential role of chemistry products to everyday life. Indeed, chemistry impacts more than 96% of all manufactured goods in Illinois, many of which support basic human needs.

Illinois is essentially the **nation's epicenter** for the production of disinfectants, cleaning products, sanitizers, sterilization, soaps and personal protective gear used in the medical community and food production as well as by the general population. While there have been some supply-chain challenges keeping up with demand, our production of these vital products is continuing. (List attached).

It would be extremely damaging and counterproductive to interrupt the supply of these goods which help the state manage through this public health crisis.

The unplanned shutdown of chemical plants and refineries also presents particular safety concerns, as these processes are often designed to run 24/7. Indeed, our members have developed well-planned procedures that allow necessary personnel to continue plant operations during times of low staffing. Many of these members are already utilizing such plans and allowing many employees to telework.

Hence, we respectfully urge you to consider the importance of the chemical industry as a critical infrastructure sector, and that any potential curfew, shelter-in-place orders, or other measures that may be under consideration allow for the continuance of employee access, plant operations, and transportation systems.

The CICI commends the work of the many dedicated state employees during this time, and would be glad to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark A. Biel'.

Mark A. Biel
Chief Executive Officer