



March 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: COVID-19 Response and U.S. Tire Manufacturing Priorities

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

The U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association (USTMA) is the national trade association for tire manufacturers that produce tires in the U.S. Our 13-member companies operate 58 tire-related manufacturing facilities in 17 states and generate more than \$27 billion in annual sales. Tire manufacturing is an essential industry that directly supports more than a quarter million U.S. jobs – totaling almost \$20 billion in wages – across every congressional district in the country. USTMA advances a sustainable tire manufacturing industry through thought leadership and a commitment to science-based public policy advocacy. Our member company tires make mobility possible and keep the U.S. economy moving.

USTMA fully supports the efforts of President Trump and Congress to mitigate the direct and indirect economic harm caused by the spread of COVID-19. U.S. Tire Manufacturers support the recommendations put forth by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers to provide needed relief for the broader economy as well as employers in the manufacturing sector. USTMA is committed to engaging all stakeholders to quickly pass legislation that will address the immediate and long-term challenges facing our country as a result of this pandemic.

USTMA urges your leadership to enact policies that will provide a level of economic relief to tire manufacturers, their workers, and the economy as a whole.

Specifically, we urge you to:

1. Enact legislation to provide immediate relief to employees dealing with disruptions caused by the disease, including paid leave for emergency situations or to care for family members experiencing emergency situations, minimizing waits for unemployment assistance, providing flexibility to recoup overtime wages, and provide tax credits for employers who offer workers these benefits. The U.S. tire manufacturing industry is highly dependent on production employees, who are disproportionately affected by disruptions to work schedules. Tax credits should be extended to all employers, including those above the 500-employee threshold, that offer such benefits to employees.

2. USTMA supports temporarily suspending the collection of employer-paid payroll taxes, as included in the CARES Act introduced yesterday by Leader McConnell. The temporary suspension of these taxes will reduce employer costs and address liquidity issues caused by lost sales and revenue. USTMA also urges the cancellation of these taxes for at least the months of March, April and May.
3. Ensure cross-border trade – particularly within North America – is not adversely affected by policies aimed at restricting movement to contain the spread of the disease. Tire manufacturing is an essential industry, and many U.S. tire manufacturers depend on frequent shipments between facilities across the continent to support manufacturing operations as well as retail, wholesale and distribution logistics; any disruption to those supply chains could have a crippling impact.

U.S. tire manufacturers are a critical part of the American economy. Our members play an integral role in ensuring safe and reliable transportation, particularly in emergencies. Government vehicle fleets (local, state, and federal) and other essential personnel (doctors, nurses, healthcare provider, grocers etc.) depend on safe and reliable mobility.

Ensuring the health and well-being of the nearly 100,000 dedicated individuals working to manufacture tires in the U.S. is of paramount concern to our member companies. USTMA and its members stand ready to work with Congress and the administration as well as state and local governments to address the many tough issues facing our country during these challenging times.

We look forward to working with you. For more information, please contact Sean Moore, USTMA's Director of Government Relations, at (202) 682-4861 or smoore@ustires.org.

Sincerely,



Anne Forristall Luke
President and CEO
U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association