Press Release

For Immediate Release — March 23, 2020

EIGHT STATES DEEM LBM BUSINESSES “ESSENTIAL”

RENSSELAER, N.Y. – The Northeastern Retail Lumber Association (NRLA) announces that, as of March 23, eight New England and Mid-Atlantic states have deemed lumber and building materials (LBM) businesses as essential.

Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York have all officially passed Executive Orders declaring LBM industries as essential for the health and safety of the communities they serve, as well as for maintaining the infrastructure of their states.

According to NRLA Chair Lorraine Miner, “The health and safety of the individuals in the LBM industry serves as NRLA’s top priority. With the Executive Orders passed by our various Governors, and the tireless efforts of the NRLA in bringing the voices of its members together, the LBM industry can continue to protect the welfare of its communities during these challenging times.”

All states designating essential businesses, other than Pennsylvania, deem the entire LBM supply chain, as well as construction, as essential. Pennsylvania deems building materials dealers as essential, but wholesalers and manufacturers as non-essential. NRLA continues to lobby on their behalf.

“The NRLA’s ability to swiftly address the needs of its members is a sign of its strength,” commented NRLA President Rita Ferris. “The coordinated response of NRLA’s lobbyists, staff, and members working together to keep each other’s businesses operating has been impressive and rewarding. There is more work to be done as we anticipate additional states in our territory needing assistance.”

“As more and more states adopt an essential services model for business activity due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are thrilled that so many Governors have recognized the critical need for the services and products the LBM industry provides to our communities,” said Kirk Ives, NRLA Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs. “During these difficult times, our members will continue to be a reliable resource for families, businesses, and construction projects across the United States.”

The NRLA, which operates in 11 states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region, is advocating for the LBM supply industry to be deemed as essential and is asking member companies to email their Governor and Legislators to request this designation. The NRLA is continuing to advocate for its members in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

About the NRLA

The NRLA is a 1200-member association representing independent lumber and building material suppliers and associated businesses in New York, New Jersey, the Mid-Atlantic, and six New England states. Throughout our 126-year history, NRLA has provided leadership, support, and community for lumber and building material dealers throughout the Northeastern United States. NRLA is an industry leader in education, legislative and regulatory reform, and member programs and services. We also produce the industry’s largest regional trade show, LBM Expo.

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