On Monday, March 23, 2020, Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker announced Executive Order No.13 which directs the closure of all non-essential retail businesses to the public, with exceptions.

The official Massachusetts guidance document for essential businesses captures the complete LBM supply chain from manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and retail services. The specific areas from the guidance to note are:

"Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products";

"Construction Workers who support the construction, operation, inspection, and maintenance of construction sites and construction projects (including housing construction)"; and

"Commercial retail stores that supply essential sectors, including convenience stores, pet supply stores, auto supplies and repair, hardware and home improvement, and home appliance retailers."

All businesses providing essential services can continue to operate brick and mortar facilities during this two-week time period. While these businesses are designated as essential, they are urged to follow social distancing protocols for workers in accordance with guidance from the Department of Public Health.

This Order takes effect on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 12:00 pm, and will remain in effect until at least April 7, 2020 at 12:00 pm or until modified or revoked by the Governor.

Thank you again to everyone that participated in our action alert last week. Without your grassroots advocacy, we might not have obtained the essential services status. I’d also like to thank our MRLDA Legislative Committee Chair, Harvey Hurvitz, the Legislative Committee members, our lobbyist Patrick Huntington, the MRLDA Board of Directors and the NRLA staff for their cooperation and proactive steps during this process.

Click on the buttons below to read the Governor's executive order No.13 or the essential services guidance document that clarified essential service status for the LBM industry. If you have any questions, please let me know. Stay safe and be healthy.

Best,

Kirk W. Ives  
Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Northeastern Retail Lumber Association  
585 North Greenbush Rd.  
Rensselaer, NY 12144  
Tel: 518-880-6376