On Saturday, March 21, 2020, New Jersey Governor Murphy announced Executive Order 107 which directs the closure of all non-essential retail businesses to the public, with exceptions.

Hardware and home improvement stores have been deemed essential and are excluded from this directive. They may remain open during their normal business hours. Essential retail businesses must, wherever practicable, provide pickup services outside or adjacent to their stores for goods ordered in advance online or by phone.

During the Press Conference, Governor Murphy also said that the manufacturing ring and trucking that supply these businesses are classified as essential. This is a critical component as it allows our wholesale and distributor partners to continue to function alongside us.

Essential retail business whose brick-and-mortar premises remain open to the public must abide by social distancing practices to the extent practicable while providing essential services. These include all reasonable efforts to keep customers six feet apart and frequent use of sanitizing products on common surfaces.

This Order takes effect on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 9:00 p.m., and will remain in effect until revoked or modified by the Governor.

Governor Murphy also signed Executive Order No. 108, which invalidates any county or municipal restriction that in any way will or might conflict with any of the provisions of Executive Order No. 107. This is effective at 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 as well.

Thank you again to everyone that participated in our action alert earlier this week. Without your grassroots advocacy, we might not have obtained the essential services status. I'd also like to thank the NJBMDA Board of Directors for their proactive steps during this process and our lobbyist Scot Mackey for being such a strong advocate for the industry.

Click on the button below to read the Governor's press release and the two executive orders. If you have any questions, please let me know. Stay safe and be healthy.

Best,

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