

WESTERN

Equipment Dealers Association



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March 19, 2020

Mr. Sonny Perdue
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

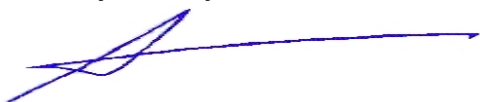
The Western Equipment Dealers Association represents over 2200 farm and construction equipment dealerships. As you know, the U.S. economy is largely dependent upon a healthy production agriculture sector and adequate transportation infrastructure.

Given the rapidly escalating trend of Washington and the states closing everything from schools to restaurants, we are concerned a potential executive decision could extend to dealership operations. From a policy standpoint, we believe the ability to maintain adequate farm and construction equipment sales, service, and repair facilities is paramount to supporting a healthy population and the U.S. economy. Our equipment dealerships play a critical role in supporting the equipment that is used for food production and the transportation of both people and essential products.

The purpose of this letter is to clarify that farm and construction dealerships are essential to supporting the production agriculture and transportation infrastructure sectors. In short, we would respectfully request that our dealerships be considered "essential" businesses in the event an executive order is issued to shut down "non-essential" businesses. Rest assured, we will continue to actively communicate with our dealerships regarding the proactive measures they should take in order to provide a safe environment for both our customers and employees.

I would be very happy to visit with you should you have any questions. My personal cell is 615 651-9159 should you wish to discuss further.

Thank you for your consideration.



John Schmeiser
CEO