



April 17, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
221 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honorable General Luis Cresencio Sandoval González
Secretary of National Defense
Blvd. Manuel Ávila Camacho
Esq. Av. Industria Militar. S/N
Lomas de Sotelo, Alcaldía Miguel Hidalgo,
Ciudad de México. C.P. 11200

The Honorable Wilbur T. Ross
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honourable Navdeep Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honorable Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Plaza Juárez 20
Col. Centro, Ciudad de México. C.P.
06010

The Honorable Mark T. Esper
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

The Honourable Harjit Sajjan
Minister of National Defense
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honorable Graciela Márquez Colín
Secretary of Economy
Pachuca 189,
Col. Condesa, Alcaldía, Cuauhtémoc
Ciudad de México. C.P. 06140

The Honorable Dr. Jorge Alcocer Varela
Secretary of Health
Lieja No. 7,
Col. Juárez, Alcaldía Cuauhtémoc,
Ciudad de México, CDMX, C.P. 06600

Dear Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Ebrard, Minister Champagne, Secretary Esper, Secretary Sandoval, Minister Sajjan, Secretary Ross, Secretary Márquez, Minister Bains, and Dr. Alcocer:

On behalf of the Aerospace Industries Association of America (AIA), the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC), and the Mexican Federation of Aerospace Industries (FEMIA), we would like to thank you for your tireless efforts to protect the health and safety of American, Canadian, and Mexican citizens as we comprehensively respond to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our citizens are of paramount concern, requiring clear, coordinated, and direct guidance from all levels of

government about how best to protect our workers while sustaining society's essential functions. We are sincerely grateful for your work.

With the highest consideration of the health and safety of our citizens, we write today to underscore the importance of recognizing the North American aerospace and defense sector, including original equipment manufacturers and the entire supporting supply chain, as “essential business” and “essential infrastructure” during the current COVID-19 crisis. The support of government leaders at the federal, state, and local levels across North America in recognizing the “essential” nature of our work is necessary to address the myriad challenges the virus brings, sustain critical elements of our economies, and maintain our individual and collective security.

The aerospace and defense industry and corresponding supply chain is a global enterprise, requiring all elements to remain well-coordinated in order to meet the demands of military and national defense, medical and public safety response, air cargo demands, and the global flying public. In a time of crisis, the capabilities of the aerospace and defense sector, both for military and commercial purposes, have been called upon to provide essential transportation of goods, services, and people. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the aerospace and defense sector is responding – but we need your assistance to continue doing so.

As the three associations representing the North American aerospace and defense sector and its supply chain, **we respectfully ask for continued harmonization across our three countries in ensuring our sector is deemed “essential”** particularly at the subnational level where different interpretation criteria is being applied to our industry. Building on the renewed and strengthened economic integration found in the United States-Canada-Mexico (USMCA) trade agreement, coordinated guidance affecting aerospace and defense manufacturers will allow our sector to remain operational and able to support the ongoing COVID-19 response. Specifically, we urge full consideration of using the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's CISA guidance as the basis for coordinated efforts across North America. It is mutually beneficial for our three nations to issue clear guidance that maintains the near-term operations of the aerospace and defense sector while adhering to the highest standards of safety for our respective workforce.

Canada, Mexico, and the United States can show the world this unprecedented pandemic and economic slowdown can be overcome with a united North American response, characterized by the cooperation and collaboration that has defined the aerospace and defense sector for generations. Our companies are committed to the wellbeing of our personnel and the community during this crisis by operating under some of the strictest health and safety standards in the world. Our industry is prepared to partner with the U.S., Mexico, and Canada to both continue the essential aerospace and defense manufacturing while taking the necessary precautions to protect our critical workforce.

We are grateful for your consideration and personal commitment in order to formally recognize the essentiality of the aerospace and defense sector, both military and

commercial, across all North America in a timely manner. We are eager to continue our work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and have North America lead the way for the world as we emerge from this crisis stronger. Thank you for your leadership in these difficult times.

Best regards,



Eric Fanning
President and CEO
Aerospace Industries
Association



Felipe de Jesús Sandoval
President
Mexican Federation of
Aerospace Industries



Jim Quick
President and CEO
Aerospace Industries
Association of Canada

CC:

Mr. Richard M. Mills Jr., Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the United States to Canada
Ambassador Christopher Landau, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico
Ambassador Kirsten Hillman, Ambassador of Canada to the United States
Ambassador Graeme Clark, Canadian Ambassador to Mexico
Ambassador Martha Bárcena Coqui, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States
Ambassador Juan Jose Gomez Camacho, Mexican Ambassador to Canada