March 24, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation’s oil and gas drilling and service companies continue to provide essential energy to homes and businesses while ensuring the safety of our employees and contractors.

The International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) and the Petroleum Equipment and Services Association (PESA) together with our collective members are requesting that you please facilitate continued upstream oil and gas operations and oilfield service and equipment operations as essential services during this time and ensure that oil and gas workers and oilfield service and equipment providers, as essential workers, can continue working. Your support is greatly appreciated to exempt oil and gas operations and our essential personnel from work and travel limitations as our nation responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is responsible for providing strategic guidance as assigned under the Homeland Security Act of 2002. CISA recently published “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers,” as a resource for state and local officials as they work to protect their communities while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. Under the Energy heading, CISA has identified Petroleum Workers and Natural Gas and Propane Workers as “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers”. Specific functions accompany the listing. In order to avoid interruption of petroleum fuels and their many associated products to the 330 million Americans that depend on this essential energy source, it is critical for upstream oil and gas operations to have the necessary personnel providing ongoing essential functions to meet current and future service needs. It is also critical that essential personnel be available to complete major work already in progress.

Essential personnel are our members’ employees and contractors needed to ensure the safe and continuing provision of oil and natural gas drilling and energy services that ensure a continuous flow of energy to our nation. This includes not only individuals who perform the actual field operations of drilling and well servicing, but also individuals engaged in transportation, supply chain manufacturing, safety, compliance and customer service work.

On behalf of IADC and PESA’s members, we appreciate your attention in helping us ensure our employees have the ability to maintain critical services during this national crisis.

Sincerely,

Jason McFarland    Leslie Beyer
President, IADC    President, PESA