

Office of the President & CEO
tdobbins@aluminum.org

703.358.2980

1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 430
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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During this time of crisis, the U.S. aluminum industry is striving to operate essential facilities while doing everything possible to assure the health and safety of workers, their families and their communities nationwide. The country is depending on the metal our industry makes to support aerospace, transportation, construction, defense, packaging, infrastructure and many other critical segments of the U.S. economy.

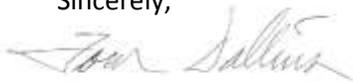
The aluminum industry is recognized by the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) as a core part of the critical manufacturing sector, and the Departments of Commerce and Defense found the industry to be "vital" to national security. Additionally, aluminum is designated as a critical mineral by the federal government.

Guidance [issued](#) by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in March 2020 to identify critical infrastructure during the COVID-19 response specifically cites the [Critical Manufacturing Sector](#), and states that "*workers necessary for the manufacturing of metals (including steel and aluminum)*" and "*workers needed to maintain the continuity of these manufacturing functions and their associated supply chains*" are part of the critical manufacturing sector. Similarly, workers necessary for the production of industrial minerals such as alumina and their associated supply chains are identified as critical. CISA's guidance determined that continuing operations in the manufacturing sector – including U.S. aluminum and alumina production and processing – is necessary for national security, economic security, and public health and safety.

As state, county and city officials issue orders to restrict individual movement and business activity during the current COVID-19 pandemic, they have provided exemptions for workers of essential businesses. The Aluminum Association encourages companies and local authorities to work together to ensure such workers to continue to work during periods of community restriction, in accordance with relevant regulations and public health guidance.

More resources, including state-level information, is available at <https://www.aluminum.org/COVID19>. Thank you for all your efforts to keep aluminum facilities open and operating safely during this national crisis.

Sincerely,



Tom Dobbins
President and CEO
The Aluminum Association