



NW Automotive Trades Assn.



Oregon Vehicle Dealer Association



OREGON RV DEALERS ASSOCIATION



OREGON TOW TRUCK ASSOCIATION



Oregon Power Sports Association

March 19, 2020

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Representing: Northwest Auto Trades Assn
Oregon Vehicle Dealers Assn
Oregon Power Sports Assn
Oregon RV Dealers Assn

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Representing: Oregon Tow Truck Association

To: The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor
The Honorable Peter Courtney, President of the Senate
The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Arnie Roblan, Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response
The Honorable Paul Holvey, Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response

RE: INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE & REPAIR AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

As Oregon governments move to protect our citizens from the Coronavirus pandemic, it is possible – if not likely – that it will be necessary to reduce business activity to only essential services for a period. In this case, on behalf of NATA, OVDA, ORVDA, and OTTA we request that motor vehicle service and repair (and the supply chain required to provide needed parts for repair) be included as essential services.

- In a March 19, 2020 memorandum, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security includes motor vehicle service and repair as an essential service; and
- Other states and jurisdictions which have already limited activity to essential services, including California, Pennsylvania and Nevada, specifically include motor vehicle service and repair as an essential service.

The justification for declaring motor vehicle service and repair as essential services is self-evident. *Every other essential service function needs reliable transportation to move people and equipment from location to location.*

- Doctors, firefighters and law enforcement personnel need working motor vehicles to get to and from work. Moreover, ambulances, police cruisers and fire apparatus need to be serviced and repaired to work during the pandemic;
- Medical supplies, emergency supplies, groceries (farm to table) and other necessities require motor vehicles to move product down the supply chain to retail locations for public use;

- Governments at all levels have motor vehicles (beyond emergency vehicles), such as public works, water departments, etc. which must be operable throughout the pandemic for public health, safety and welfare;
- NGO's like the Red Cross, Medical Reserve Corp and others also rely on motor vehicles to move people and products (including life-saving blood) from location to location;
- Individuals need their motor vehicles to purchase food, visit doctors and conduct individual essential activities to maintain their own health and safety; and
- With regard to recreational vehicles, these are used by many people as a primary residence. As a result, maintaining them is crucial to their ability to remain housed during the pandemic.

We believe the case is strong that all motor vehicle-related service and repair businesses should be included as essential services. Such an indication needs to include the following, in order for the existing system to remain seamlessly effective:

- Full service, stand-alone motor vehicle mechanical and collision repair shops;
- Tire stores and "quick" oil change facilities;
- Towing businesses;
- Motor vehicle parts retail and wholesale businesses;
- Motor vehicle dismantlers (which are an essential link in supplying parts to the repair chain);
- Motor vehicle dealerships (including RV dealerships) which have parts, service and repair components;
- Farm implement dealerships which have parts, service and repair components;
- Power Sports dealerships which have parts, service and repair components (many first responder agencies rely on quads, gators, razors and other off road vehicles to move personnel and equipment in emergencies); and
- The transportation infrastructure to ensure timely delivery of the parts needed to supply those above. Truckers must have truck stops and rest areas open in order to safely move products across the United States. They must have places to safely stop to rest, sleep and eat.

Industry representatives are prepared to answer any questions to assist in your efforts to properly include the transportation service and repair industry in any list of essential services in Oregon. Please contact us if we can be of assistance.

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