

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 3, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer,

As members of the Senate Recycling Caucus, we write to you today to express our concerns about our nation's men and women in the waste and recycling collection industry that have been declared essential in all fifty states. We are concerned that those working in the sanitation industry on the frontlines are vulnerable to the impacts the coronavirus. We urge you to consider the waste and recycling industries in any future coronavirus relief packages to address this critical infrastructure industry, particularly as we work through issues surrounding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

America's waste and recycling collection sector directly and indirectly employs nearly 1.5 million people across our country in every state and congressional district with a total payroll of nearly \$30 billion. During this national emergency, members of this sector have been classified as "essential," having been listed under five different "essential critical infrastructure workers" headings in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) 3.0 guidelines.^[1]

Due to their essential status, these hardworking Americans will continue to provide waste and recycling services to customers and communities in order to protect the public's health and safety. As waste and recycling bins continue to fill up, these men and women need to have the adequate equipment, including PPE, to do their jobs in a safe and responsible way. Providing this equipment will ensure community and household waste and recycling programs can continue to operate, as these programs are often also playing a critical role in supplying raw materials for the manufacturing of essential products during this unique time.

From the healthcare sector to the restaurant industry and from those that own small businesses and to the places we call home, these services have a material impact on nearly every sector in our society. Every day, the employees in this industry perform essential services even though many of their service contracts are not being paid during these unprecedented times. As

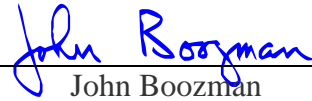
^[1] "Public Works and Infrastructure Support Services," "Critical Manufacturing," "Hazardous Materials," "Healthcare / Public Health," and "Transportation and Logistics." Source: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_3.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_4.pdf

Congress continues our work to provide relief from the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you also consider the needs of the men and women in the waste and recycling collection industry. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Avery Mulligan of Senator Carper's staff at avery_mulligan@epw.senate.gov or Jace Motley of Senator Boozman's staff at jace_motley@boozman.senate.gov.

Thank you,



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator