May 6, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), the trade association for manufacturers of HVACR and water heating equipment, thank you and the Administration for your leadership and proactive efforts to protect and support the American people who are being severely impacted by the COVID-19 coronavirus health emergency. AHRI’s more than 300 member companies that manufacture quality, efficient, and innovative residential and commercial air conditioning, space heating, water heating, and commercial refrigeration equipment and components are doing their part to continue to supply our essential products for the benefit of the American people during this national crisis. Without reliable HVACR and water heating equipment, the challenges faced by our country during this difficult time would be greatly increased.

While we have been quite successful in having our industry designated “essential” in nearly every part of our country, Mexico, where our member companies have a significant manufacturing presence, is quite a different matter, and we are hoping the State Department might be able to help.

There is currently no federal directive in Mexico designating essential status for HVACR and water heating, and because of that, the situation for equipment and supply chain manufacturers there is dire.

Simply put, the continued inability of some of our member companies to manufacture products in their Mexican factories will very soon severely impact our ability to supply these essential products to the American market, putting American lives and health at risk. The products and equipment they produce in those factories and export to the United States is vital for health, safety, and productivity, particularly with respect to air filtration; refrigeration for food and medical supply preservation; and water heating for handwashing, sterilization, cleaning, and disinfecting.

We urgently request your assistance in convincing the federal, state, and local jurisdictions in Mexico to allow continued manufacturing operations, while our members commit to adhere to strict workplace safety and health standards. We believe the lack of essential designation in Mexico is an oversight, and we are working diligently to correct that, for the benefit of the people of Mexico and the United States.
With your help, we believe we can quickly remedy this situation and supply the products and equipment vital to both Mexican and American health and safety during this crisis and beyond. We very much appreciate any assistance you can offer, and we stand ready to provide any additional information you might require.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stephen R. Yurek
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce
    The Honorable Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative