



March 22, 2020

The Honorable Tim Walz, Governor
State of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Restaurants, Hotels, and other Lodging Facilities as Essential Services

Dear Governor Walz:

As the State considers the prudence and/or timing of any potential "shelter in place" order, we urge that any such order consider restaurants, hotels and other lodging facilities (including resorts, campground, and RV park operations) are essential critical services.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has indicated that operators and workers engaged in providing lodging and food supply are part of our Essential Critical Infrastructure. This includes operations at restaurants and lodging facilities that provide take-out and food delivery services, as well as shelter to others. Many lodging facilities, including hotels, motels, and RV parks/campgrounds provide medium-and-long-term shelter/lodging, as well as other critical services. For instance, RV parks/campgrounds provide propane to those sheltering at their operation, and potentially others in the community. These operators and their workers are providing food and shelter to Minnesotans and supporting COVID-19 mitigation and containment measures.

Employees providing services at lodging facilities and restaurants need to be allowed to travel to and from work, and as-needed in order to provide these critical services. We request that any prospective order deem these Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers as essential in Minnesota.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We and our members stand ready to serve Minnesotans in any way that we can to mitigate the current crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Rammer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" being more prominent.

Liz Rammer, President & CEO