**Classification of Massachusetts Agricultural Infrastructure**

**as Essential Services in the Commonwealth**

On March 23, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker issued an emergency order, *Exhibit A of the Order of the Governor Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Certain Workplaces and Prohibiting Gatherings of More Than 10 People*, requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide “COVID-19 Essential Services” to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public as of Tuesday, March 24th at Noon until Tuesday, April 7th at Noon. On March 31, 2020, the Governor extended that Order until Monday, May 4th and updated the list of “COVID-19 Essential Services.”

**Regarding agriculture, the following remain listed as “Essential Services” in the Commonwealth:**

* Farmers, farm workers, and agribusiness support services to include those employed in auction and sales: grain and oilseed handling, processing and distribution; animal food, feed, and ingredient production, packaging, and distribution; manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to produce our food supply domestically and for export.
* Farmers, farm workers, support service workers, and their supplier employees to include those engaged in producing and harvesting field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; biodiesel and renewable diesel facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs.

**In addition,** **farm supplies and deliveries to support commerce, food and agriculture are listed as “Critical Infrastructure”:**

1. Presidential Policy Directive 21 (PPD-21) designates the food and agriculture sector as a critical infrastructure sector whose assets, systems, and networks are considered so vital that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health, or safety.

2. The President’s Coronavirus Guidance published on March 16, 2020 instructs employees of Critical Infrastructure Industries, such as the food and agriculture sector, to maintain normal work patterns during the global coronavirus outbreak.

3. This document certifies that this vehicle is transporting a shipment of food and agricultural products within a sector that has been designated as critical infrastructure.

4. Based on both State and Federal Guidance it is to allow this shipment to proceed in the federal interests of protecting the nation’s food supply chain.

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