



Honorable Ron DeSantis
The Capital
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

On behalf of the recreational vehicle industry in Florida, thank you for all you are doing to protect the state, our citizens and our visitors during this difficult time. As the chief executives of the principal trade associations representing the Florida RV industry, we wanted to convey to you the importance of a functioning RV industry as our state weathers this unprecedented storm caused by COVID – 19.

As you are likely aware on March 19th, the Department of Homeland Security has issued a Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers. Likely overlooked during a review of this memorandum is the RV industry's role as a part of the nation's critical infrastructure during times of need.

Many of Florida's RV dealers and campgrounds are licensed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as propane gas storage, transmission and distribution centers that employ technicians licensed to service and maintain propane gas operations serving not just the needs of the RVing public, but also the community at large.

Specific to the Guidance memo, RV dealers and RV campgrounds deliver critical community services within the natural gas industry and are covered by the memorandum's section on Energy workers.

During times of disaster, recreational vehicles are regularly called into service by federal, state, local and NGO entities to serve in a host of functions for disaster response. Some uses currently in place during the recent emergency declarations include mobile command center and staging units, mobile medical centers, operating rooms, bathroom trailers, laundry facilities, sleeping units and even mobile quarantine units. Very often, the RV industry is uniquely able to meet critical needs in an expedited time frame to assist with rapid mobile responses in the face of emergency events. Florida's RV manufacturers, service centers and dealerships are essential businesses to ensure that the industry is fully functioning to provide operational RVs for the sundry needs during this disaster.

Similarly, Florida's over 900 licensed RV parks with their more than 125,000 camping sites serve important lodging and housing needs for essential critical infrastructure workers during times of need, RV Parks and campgrounds are regulated through the Department of Health and we would ask that they are approved to maintain operations throughout this emergency.

These parks are important layover points for the general public as they travel to their principal residence or shelter in place in response to the various emergency orders.

As you and your team deal with this pandemic, the RV industry hopes you will keep these points in mind and ensure that the RV industry in Florida continues to stay open and its businesses function in these valuable and critical roles for our state. We stand at the ready to assist you in any manner as your administration navigates these difficult times. Thank you again for all you are doing!

Sincerely,

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