



March 18, 2020

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Secretary Mnuchin, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of The National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA) and our membership, I wanted to express our appreciation to the Executive and Legislative branch on their steadfast efforts to assist U.S. industries currently dealing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Founded in 1936, NAMA is the association representing the \$26 billion U.S. convenience services industry, with its core membership being comprised of owners and operators of vending machines, micro markets, office coffee, tea, water and pantry services. With nearly 1,000-member companies – including many of the world’s most recognized brands – NAMA provides advocacy, education and research for its membership. The convenience services industry employs over 150,000 Americans – the majority employed by small businesses – contributing a total economic impact of over \$26 billion to the U.S. economy annually.

**The Convenience Services Industry is uniquely equipped to assist the nation in this time of crisis.** Vending machines, micro markets, and pantry services provide over 40 million consumers with food and beverages daily. Specifically, NAMA members keep machines and micro markets in hospitals, schools, police stations, firehouses, truck stops and rest areas, stocked with necessary sustenance to keep our essential response teams going at a time when social distancing is not only encouraged, but required to stop the spread of the virus. And it is all accomplished in an unattended retail environment, often with round the clock availability.

Like many other industries, convenience services is being severely impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak. With many office locations shuttered, and the general public being urged to self-

quarantine, NAMA members are having a hard time making ends meet. **We urge you to clarify unattended retail as an essential source in the food supply chain and ensure that federal assistance provided through stimulus legislation aides small businesses that are suffering the most, like our small operators.**

Finally, please look to NAMA and its members as a resource to help the federal government in its response efforts. Through our unique food distribution system, our industry can be the greatest source of “contactless” nourishment to the Nation’s doctors, nurses, emergency responders, and truck drivers. We are willing to assist however we can through this challenging time.

Thank you for your leadership in these extraordinary times. We stand ready to work with you and help our neighbors when they need it most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Balakgie', written in a cursive style.

Carla Balakgie, FASAE, CAE  
President & CEO  
NAMA