



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
600 E BOULEVARD AVE, DEPT 602
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0020

DOUG GOEHRING
COMMISSIONER

April 7, 2020

North Dakota Nursery, Greenhouse and Landscape Association
Mary Holm, Executive Director
PO Box 34
Neche, ND 58265

Dear Ms. Holm,

Thank you for your letter from March 29, 2020, regarding your concerns for businesses within in your organization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you may know, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the federal government maintains a list of business sectors deemed essential. We consider this sector in agriculture to be critical and essential. Food and agriculture are part of sixteen critical infrastructure sectors deemed vital to the U.S., and green industries would be included in that category. Nurseries and greenhouses, especially in the next couple of months, will provide seeds and garden supplies for citizens to produce their own food during this time of crisis.

We have not posted anything publicly because we do not have a "shelter in place" declaration. If an order is declared, we will provide a list of all essential and critical businesses in the state.

We would encourage nurseries and greenhouses to exercise safe distancing guidelines as recommended by the CDC as their business begin to open this spring to protect employees and customers. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Charles Elhard, nursery program lead, of my staff at 701-220-0485.

Wishing you a successful season.

Sincerely,

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner