



NW Automotive Trades Assn.



Oregon Vehicle Dealer Association



OREGON RV DEALERS ASSOCIATION



OREGON TOW TRUCK ASSOCIATION



Oregon Power Sports Association



OADA

Oregon  
Auto Dealers  
Association

March 19, 2020

To: The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor  
The Honorable Peter Courtney, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Arnie Roblan, Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response  
The Honorable Paul Holvey, Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response

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Representing: Northwest Auto Trades Assn. (NATA)  
Oregon Vehicle Dealers Assn. (OVDA)  
Oregon Power Sports Assn. (OPSA)  
Oregon RV Dealers Assn. (ORVDA)

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Representing: Oregon Tow Truck Assn. (OTTA)

**RE: DESIGNATING MOTOR VEHICLE SALES, SERVICE & REPAIR AS ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

As Oregon governments move to protect our citizens from the Coronavirus pandemic, it is possible – if not likely – that it will be necessary to reduce business activity to only essential services for a period. In this case, on behalf of NATA, OVDA, OPSA, ORVDA, OADA and OTTA we request that motor vehicle sales, service and repair be included as essential services, as well as the supply chain required to provide parts for repair.

The precedent for this has already been set:

- In a March 19, 2020 memorandum, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security includes motor vehicle service and repair as essential services, see attached; and
- Other states and jurisdictions which have already limited activity to essential services, including California, Pennsylvania and Nevada, specifically include motor vehicle service and repair as essential service.

The justification for declaring motor vehicle sales, service and repair as essential services is self-evident. ***Every other essential service function needs reliable transportation to move people and equipment from location to location:***

- Doctors, firefighters, emergency medical responders, and law enforcement need working motor vehicles to get to and from work. Moreover, ambulances, police cruisers and fire apparatus need to be serviced and repaired to work during the pandemic;
- Medical supplies, emergency supplies, groceries (farm to table) and other necessities (toilet paper) require motor vehicles to move products down the supply chain to retail locations for public use;
- Governments at all levels have agencies, such as public works and water departments, etc. which have motor vehicles that must be operable throughout the pandemic for public health, safety and welfare;
- Utilities, including, but not limited to, electricity, natural gas, water and sewer, and communications rely on fleets to operate. Those fleets require parts for proper maintenance, service and repair;
- NGO's like the Red Cross, Medical Reserve Corp. and others also rely on motor vehicles to move people and products -- including life-saving blood -- from location to location;
- Individuals need their motor vehicles to purchase food, visit doctors and conduct essential activities to maintain their own health and safety;
- With regard to recreational vehicles, these are used by many people as a primary residence. As a result, maintaining RVs is crucial to their ability to remain housed during the pandemic; and
- With regards to motor vehicle sales, just as some vehicles need service and repair, others need to be immediately replaced due to wrecks, or repairs which are more costly than replacement, rendering the vehicle unsafe and unusable.

We believe the case is strong that all motor vehicle-related sales, service and repair businesses should be included as essential services. For the existing system to remain seamlessly effective, such a designation needs to include the following:

- Full-service motor vehicle mechanical and collision repair shops;
- Tire stores and "quick" oil change facilities;
- Towing businesses;
- Motor vehicle parts retail, wholesale and distribution businesses;
- Motor vehicle dismantlers (which are an essential link in supplying parts to the repair chain);
- Motor vehicle dealerships (including RV dealerships);
- Farm implement dealerships; and
- Power Sports dealerships (many first responder agencies rely on quads, gators, razors and other off road vehicles to move personnel and equipment in emergencies).

***Finally, the transportation infrastructure to ensure timely delivery of the parts needed to supply those above. Truckers must have truck stops and rest areas open in order to safely move products across the United States. They must have places to safely stop to rest, sleep and eat.***

Industry representatives are prepared to answer any questions to assist in your efforts to properly include the transportation service and repair industry in any list of essential services in Oregon. Please contact us if we can be of assistance.

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