

March 24, 2020

Governor Tony Evers

eversinfo@wisconsin.gov

P.O. Box 7863

Madison, WI 53703

RE: Designate Recycling and Refurbished Computer Equipment Providers as Essential Business Operations during COVID-19 outbreak

Dear Governor Evers:

I sincerely appreciate your leadership and the State of Wisconsin's response to COVID-19. The company that I own and lead as CEO, Cascade Asset Management ("Cascade") in Madison, is trying to do our part to assist government, industry, the community, and healthcare organizations mobilized in this effort.

Cascade employs 68 people who work at our Madison office. All of the staff who can work remotely have been set up to work from home and are doing so right now. Still, there are many employees who perform delivery and production activities who are needed to come into our facility to perform their work.

I know you recently announced Emergency Order #12, Safer at Home, which is effective Wednesday, March 25, 2020 through April 24, 2020 (unless a superseding order is issued.) I also recognize and fully support the need to take these drastic actions in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. The work that Cascade does to provide data security services, information technology equipment refurbishment, and recycling activities is essential as well.

Cascade is engaged in information technology asset disposition (ITAD) services. We provide pickup and removal services to various other Essential Organizations, including those in healthcare, banking, distribution, and retail services that have been called to respond to COVID-19 and need equipment removed from their locations. Cascade is engaged to protect the security interests of these organizations by destroying personal health information and other sensitive data from storage media.

In addition, Cascade refurbishes computer equipment and has been preparing and shipping laptops to students, healthcare organizations, government agencies and other essential business still operating and needing equipment for remote access. For example, we are responding to requests to provide refurbished devices to Milwaukee Public School students, Community Health Centers in Milwaukee, and numerous Wisconsin businesses needing laptops for their employees to work from home.

More specifically, Cascade provides the following activities that are listed in the [Essential Business Declaration](#) by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

- **Supplies to Work from Home:** *Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply products needed for people to work from home” – see the Cascade Marketplace – market.cascade-assets.com*
- **Supplies for Essential Business and Operations and Essential Government Functions:** *Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply other Essential Business and Operations and Essential Governmental Functions with the support or supplies necessary to operate, including computers...*
- **Manufacture, Distribution and Supply Chain for Critical Products and Industries:** *...supply chain companies . . . supplying . . . waste pickup and disposal . . . steel (from recycling) . . . and products used by other Essential Businesses and Operations.*

A [letter from our industry trade group \(ISRI\)](#) addressed to the Vice President and the national Coronavirus Task Force provides more details on the role companies like Cascade play in providing essential functions to the country and community by processing valuable resources and making available tens of thousands of computing devices when global supply chains are at risk.

As the State of Wisconsin takes steps to limit the spread of Coronavirus and commercial activity, we will plan continue to operate only those essential functions of our business that facilitate the removal of e-waste from other essential operations and to prioritize the processing of collected IT equipment for secure data destruction and refurbishment so that it can be made available to area individuals, agencies, institutions and businesses that need them to function properly during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Through this Safer at Home period, if any Cascade employee can work remotely, they will work remotely. As part of our Business Continuity Plan activation, we will continue to follow all CDC guidelines at the workplace and we will provide additional compensation, on top of our Paid Time Off compensation, to any employees unable to work during this period so that they don't suffer additional financial hardships.

I appreciate your understanding. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact me by phone or email.

Take care,



Neil Peters-Michaud
CEO and co-owner

Cascade Asset Management
608-316-6637 * npm@cascade-assets.com

cc: Senator Mark Miller, Representative Melissa Sargent