

March 23, 2020

Representative Robert Behning

H91@iga.in.gov

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

Dear Representative Behning:

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

Cascade employs 21 people who work at our Indianapolis office in your district. Any 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 Governor Holcomb recently announced Executive Order 20-08 to direct Hoosiers to stay at home and restrict "non-essential" businesses effective Tuesday, March 24th. 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 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, and retail services that have been called to respond to COVID-19 and need equipment removed from their locations. 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 Franciscan Alliance needing laptops for their employees to work from home and to support their medical needs.

More specifically, Cascade provides the following activities that are listed in the [Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#) by the US Department of Homeland Security.

- Support to ensure the effective removal, storage, and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste and hazardous waste
- Workers supporting the provision of essential global, national and local infrastructure for computing services (incl. cloud computing services), business infrastructure, web-based services, and critical manufacturing

- Workers supporting communications systems and information technology used by law enforcement, public safety, medical, energy and other critical industries

In addition, Cascade provides services identified in IN Executive Order 20-08:

- **Supplies for Essential Business and Operations** Businesses that sell, manufacture, and/or supply other Essential Business Operations with the support or materials necessary to operate, including computers . . .

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 Indiana takes steps to limit the spread of Coronavirus and limit commercial activity, we will plan continue to operate those essential functions of our business that facilitate the removal of e-waste from other operating entities and to process collected IT equipment for 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. We can also perform these functions at our workplace while meeting all the guidelines for safety and hygiene recommended by the CDC.

We are also sharing this information with Senator Young, who also represents us in his district.

I appreciate your understanding. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact me or James Ellison, the General Manager of our Indianapolis facility by phone or email.

Take care,



Neil Peters-Michaud

CEO and co-owner

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