

March 23, 2020

Director Christopher C. Krebs
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Stop 0380
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane
Washington, D.C. 20528-0380

Dear Director Krebs:

The PeopleForBikes Coalition recognizes the unprecedented challenge you and the federal government face in managing the spread of COVID-19. We respect the gravity of this worldwide crisis, commend you for your leadership and wish you success in achieving the best possible health outcomes. We stand ready to help.

We are writing to request that you join the growing group of state and local government leaders who have recognized the indispensable roles that bicycling and bike service providers are playing during this crisis. We ask that you designate "bicycle shops and bicycle service technicians" as part of the United States' essential critical infrastructure workforce.

The PeopleForBikes Coalition is the national trade association representing companies that manufacture and distribute bicycles, bicycle parts and bicycle accessories. Nationwide, PeopleForBikes represents 150 bicycle businesses and more than 2,350 retail locations. Our foundation is supported by 1.3 million individuals. The U.S. bicycle business contributes \$88 billion annually to our economy and supports more than 780,000 jobs. Bicycling moves people efficiently and keeps people active and healthy.

Your agency's guidance on essential critical infrastructure workforce is crucial for state and local governments in this crisis. As government officials determine which businesses may remain open and what activities may continue, direction from the federal government is vital to creating consistent policies for American businesses.

Many states are implementing restrictions on business activity, but specifically allowing bicycle shops to remain open by designating them as essential or life-sustaining. The following states have taken these actions:

- Connecticut:
 - Official guidance on business closure order (designates "bicycle repair and service" and "warehouse/distribution, shipping, and fulfillment" operations as essential businesses): <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-for-Businesses/Coronavirus-for-Businesses>
- Delaware:
 - Business closure order (designates "bicycle repair facilities or those engaged in the sale or distribution of equipment or parts necessary for the repair of automobiles and bicycles" as essential businesses): <https://governor.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2020/03/Fourth-Modification-to-State-of-Emergency-03222020.pdf>
 - Shelter in place order (designates "biking" as an essential activity): <https://governor.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2020/03/Fifth-Modification-to-State-of-Emergency-03222020.pdf>
- Illinois:
 - Stay at home order (designates "bicycle shops and related facilities" as essential businesses; allows continued operation of businesses that manufacture or supply essential businesses; designates "biking" as an essential activity): <https://www2.illinois.gov/Documents/ExecOrders/2020/ExecutiveOrder-2020-10.pdf>

- Indiana:
 - Stay at home order (designates "bicycle shops and related facilities" as essential businesses; allows continued operation of businesses that manufacture or supply essential businesses; designates "biking" as an essential activity): https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive_Order_20-08_Stay_at_Home.pdf
- Ohio:
 - Stay at home order (designates "bicycle shops and related facilities" as essential businesses; allows continued operation of businesses that manufacture or supply essential businesses; designates "biking" as an essential activity): <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/DirectorsOrderStayAtHome.pdf>
- Pennsylvania:
 - Guidance on "life-sustaining businesses" that can remain open (designating "bicycle repair" and transportation "warehousing and storage" businesses as a life-sustaining business): <https://www.scribd.com/document/452553026/UPDATED-5-45pm-March-21-2020-Industry-Operation-Guidance>

We encourage you to follow the lead of these states and amend your guidance on the essential critical infrastructure workforce to expressly include "bicycle shops and bicycle service technicians" within the "transportation" sector. We also ask that you ensure that the bicycle manufacturers, distributors and suppliers that provide the necessary parts and components required for repairs are incorporated. This would be a logical extension of CISA's current guidance, which includes "automotive repair and maintenance facilities" and workers that support manufacturing for transportation and its supply chain.

It would be appropriate for this guidance to occur at the national level - people ride bikes in all states for their transportation needs, and there are no distinctions between states that would require state-specific consideration of this issue.

Please consider the following points as you designate industries within the critical infrastructure workforce.

- Bicycling continues to be an essential transportation mode for many Americans, particularly those who don't own cars -- more than 10% of U.S. adults.
- People are riding bikes now to respect social distancing protocols. Transit modes and ride sharing cannot guarantee the same protections.
- Half the trips Americans traditionally make are three miles or less. Today, as more people work from home and avoid lengthy commutes, more trips are short, and these are easily completed by bike.
- Local bike shops support these essential trips by providing community services similar to auto repair shops or gas stations.
- Bicycling provides significant physical and mental health benefits that can counter the downsides of social isolation.
- The clear designation of bicycle shops and service technicians as a part of the critical infrastructure workforce will provide much needed clarity to citizens, businesses, and enforcement officials.

Supporting continued access to bicycling and bike stores will help address the present public health crisis while keeping U.S. citizens free from undue harm. You will ensure that basic transportation options remain available and provide support to small businesses, which comprise the vast majority of bike shops.

Best wishes,



Tim Blumenthal
President, PeopleForBikes