



March 19, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

NALP is the national trade organization representing the \$82 billion landscape industry in the United States. Member companies specialize in lawn care, landscape maintenance, tree care, irrigation, and water management. Landscape professionals work daily throughout the Nation servicing homes and businesses to maintain their landscapes, sustain the environment, and take pride in our communities by enhancing and maintaining healthy green spaces.

As a Nation, we are all struggling to combat the rapid transmission of the coronavirus “COVID-19,” and we understand and acknowledge that in some instances, drastic steps are being taken, including shutting down businesses deemed not life sustaining. Recently, Pennsylvania Governor Wolf issued an executive order to close all businesses that are not deemed “life sustaining.”

We are communicating with you today to assure you that landscape services are services that are life sustaining and must continue during any emergency declaration or quarantine scenario. Landscapers are partners during this critical time in assisting in the protection of public health and public safety. Without the landscape industry conducting these valuable services, we will undoubtedly see increased instances where people may be harmed or become sick from other illnesses compounding our already stretched medical resources.

We specifically point to the following provisions that deem certain job functions that are pertinent to the landscape industry and are deemed “life sustaining”:

“Administrative Support Services – support services to businesses and dwellings”

“Repair and Maintenance – personal household goods repair and maintenance”

For the foregoing reasons, landscape services should fall within either description and are certainly “life sustaining.”

Landscape professionals support other life sustaining businesses through maintenance of their property and the landscapes around the roads they travel and utilities they need to remain fully operational.

Landscape professionals are protectors of public health performing essential treatments to lawns and green spaces to reduce the transmission of dangerous and deadly diseases through pests like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas.

Landscape professionals protect property and maintain greenspaces that could otherwise jeopardize public safety. Unkept fields and green spaces increase the chance of injuries. Crime rates are increased in areas where green spaces are not maintained. Tree removal is also a critical function of our industry to avoid damaging homes and their families.

Spring is a critical time of year for our industry due to the abundance of growth in the spring that requires prompt maintenance and care. Any halt or delay in landscape services during this time of year only magnifies potential safety problems and become much more difficult to maintain later in the year.

Lastly, our industry is taking aggressive steps within our organizations to stop the transmission of COVID-19. Because our industry functions outside this greatly reduces the chances to come into contact with other individuals. Within the industry, strong policies are being put in place to maintain social distancing with both clients and within our teams that are working in the field.

We are all in this together, and the Landscape industry stands with our public officials to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19 while also continuing to perform those essential functions that are necessary within our communities throughout the Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Britt Wood", written in a cursive style.

Britt Wood
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Landscape Professionals