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March 23, 2020

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

On behalf of the Metals Service Center Institute's (MSCI) more than 250 North American member companies, I write to request that our member companies remain open in the face of the growing number of business shutdowns across Canada.

Industrial metals (aluminum, carbon, stainless steel) are the lifeblood to Canadian manufacturing, supporting energy, automotive, fabrication and so many other industries. MSCI represents 19 companies with headquarters in Canada, including Arcelor Mittal Dofasco, Marmon Keystone Canada, Inc., Russel Metals, Ryerson, Samuel, Son & Co., Stelco and dozens more that operate here. Together these businesses run nearly 240 locations throughout the country and directly employ thousands of Canadians. The industrial metals sector also sustains tens of thousands more jobs in many other industries, from aerospace to construction.

Realizing production is energy, labor and cost intensive, a facility shutdown is not an action that is quick or easy to undertake. We would like to request that metals service centers and metals producers are considered essential businesses during this important time. We also ask that your administration and leaders in the various provinces remember that the impacts of interruptions to critical infrastructure services may be felt far from their borders. The downstream impact of a restriction on workers in their communities must be considered.

MSCI's membership is very diverse, consisting of metals service centers, primary metals producers, and others with a vested interest in the industrial metals supply chain. The companies that MSCI represents are essential businesses that supply product to hundreds of thousands of other essential businesses, including medical supply companies and the defense, aerospace, energy, food processing and equipment industries, and others in the supply chain.

Our members are committed to continuing to operate with the health and safety of industry employees, their families, and all Canadians as the top priority. We are communicating to our members about the new protocols set by the government and look forward to further guidance from authorities so they can maintain safe and secure operations while continuing to serve the country and their customers in this time of great need.

We are ready to work together to support the government's actions in response to COVID-19. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly (bweidner@msci.org) if you or your team has questions.

Sincerely,

M. Robert Weidner, III

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President & CEO
Metals Service Center Institute