

## ***North American Emergency Supply Chain Continuity***

### ***A NASCO Initiative and Call to Action***

North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO) is the only grassroots, tri-lateral North American organization focused on our continental supply chains, workforce, and environment. Our vibrant and diverse network from all levels of industry, government and academia, are uniquely positioned to further unbiased objectives to propel North American competitiveness in the global marketplace.

NASCO is rooted in hard work, love, mutual respect, and an understanding that not only our supply chains, but also our lives and livelihoods, are integrated and connected in ways most people cannot begin to imagine. Never has that been more apparent than now.

The onset of the COVID – 19 pandemic has led NASCO to launch a *North American Emergency Supply Chain Continuity Initiative*, to use our vast network of members to partner with industry, sub-national and federal governments, and research institutions to identify, develop and maintain the necessary stakeholders that produce, warehouse and deliver the key components and services necessary during emergencies - to reduce our dependence on overseas markets and ensure North Americans can get the help they need when they need it most – now and always.

NASCO does not want to remain on the sidelines during a time of continental confusion, chaos and competition for critical products and supplies needed to save lives. We cannot sit and watch while efforts to secure supplies and services divide government and industry in a time where a unified approach is essential.

In the absence of federal strategies in all three countries, many provinces and states are working independently to do the best they can for their citizens. Examples of sub-national governments taking control of their supply chains are emerging. While they have the best intentions, governments need industry expertise to help inform critical, time sensitive needs, requirements and decisions. A patchwork of different strategies and implementation plans to fight the pandemic across our continent, coupled with competition for scarce supplies, is negligent and will result in lives lost.

A model for an effective emergency supply chain must include products, component parts, warehousing, delivery / logistics, and service providers. Coordination at the federal, state/provincial, local, and industry levels is paramount.

A unified approach to a North American EMERGENCY supply chain is more important than ever. We must act now to engage the proper stakeholders, and to develop and solidify a network of North American companies that can be quickly activated to manufacture, store and deliver vital products and services when time is of the essence.

We cannot be caught off guard again, and we cannot rely on overseas countries to deliver time sensitive, lifesaving products in a fair, equitable and timely way.

NASCO, for decades, has worked in tandem with our members and many other like-minded associations, organizations and committees lending our support as a unified voice. We connect North America. We connect people, businesses, ideas, information, efforts, and organizations. We are a powerful, continental, information sharing network in multiple layers and directions – *that exists today*. The NASCO Network has never been more important – or useful – to delivering vital results for our continent.

We hope you will join us!