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March 20, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

Thank you for your continued leadership and responsiveness aimed at stemming the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the citizens of Pennsylvania. Your recent Disaster Proclamation and numerous executive orders have been decisive steps needed to help slow the spread of this virus. We understand that all measures need to be on the table for stopping the outbreak. We also want to express our views with respect to your March 19 directive to close all “non-life-sustaining businesses” its impact on financial market operations.

As you know, the financial services sector is designated as critical infrastructure by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This designation correctly identifies that the disruption of the sector “would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health and safety, or any combination thereof.”

We believe any such action by your office to require certain businesses in Pennsylvania to close their physical locations must allow essential members of the Pennsylvania financial markets to continue to access critical systems and facilities for the benefit of the broader U.S. and global economies. This is consistent with recent actions in other jurisdictions and previous national crises.

While the financial sector has adapted and implemented work from home policies as part of our Business Continuity Plans, firms must have limited essential personnel onsite to maintain orderly market operations. Failure to provide an exemption for essential personnel would impair market operations to the detriment of the Pennsylvania and overall global economy.

We are committed to working with you and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to maintain the safety of Pennsylvania citizens while ensuring critical parts of our economy continue to function. We applaud your leadership during this crisis and stand ready to assist.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walt L. Lukken". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Walt Lukken