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March 20, 2020

Dear Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo,

The New York State Nursery & Landscape Association has been raising the standard of professionalism in the green industry since 1943. Member companies specialize in landscape installation, landscape maintenance, tree care, irrigation and water management. Landscape professionals work daily servicing homes and businesses to enhance and maintain healthy green spaces and ultimately sustain our environment.

We encourage you to consider the services our industry provides as 'essential' for the following reasons.

- **Landscape professionals are protectors of public health.** Maintaining and treating lawns and green spaces to reduce the transmission of dangerous and deadly diseases through pests like mosquitos, fleas and ticks.
- **Landscape professionals protect property and maintain green spaces that could otherwise jeopardize safety.** Unkept lawns, fields and other green spaces increase the chance for injury. Crime rates increase in areas where green spaces are not maintained.
- **Professional arborists provide a critical function within our industry to avoid damaging property, homes and families.**
- **Landscape professionals play a critical role in storm water management through drainage systems within public and private properties.**
- **Landscape professionals play a critical role in boosting morale and mental health during this difficult time for our nation.** Without the services of the green industry, the well-being of our communities will be compromised.

Spring is a critical time for our industry due to the abundance of growth that occurs at this time of year. Any halt or delay in landscape services during this time will only magnify potential health and safety problems and will be much more difficult to maintain later in the year.

The New York State Nursery & Landscape Association embraces your efforts to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19 while also continuing to perform these 'essential' functions that are necessary within our communities throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry R. Parmenter".

Jerry R. Parmenter

Past President; New York State Nursery & Landscape Association