



December 23, 2020

Ms. Lourdes M. Castro Ramirez
Agency Secretary
Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Castro Ramirez

On behalf of household goods moving industry workers in California, the California Moving and Storage Association is writing to you to ask for your consideration and support to help ensure Californians can continue to make vital household goods moves as safely as possible. Legally operating movers in California are regulated by the Bureau of Household Goods and Services (BHGS) and are easily identifiable by their CAL-T number issued by the Bureau.

At a time when many sectors are rightfully posturing to get their workers access to the COVID-19 vaccine, we believe some consideration is due to the household goods moving industry. Moving industry employees are designated as essential critical infrastructure workers per the Department of Homeland Security's Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency. Movers are a key cog in the machine that enables families and workers to transition to where they are needed; helping to keep our economy moving. As such, the moving industry plays a vital role in the U.S. economy and society as a whole, supporting Americans who, for job reasons, family care requirements, and literally hundreds of other critical factors, must relocate during the Pandemic.

By the nature of their tasks, moving company workers become intimately engaged with families during a move. They enter the home, many times over the course of one to three days at a time, to pack up and then load an entire household for transport to its new destination. Close contact between movers and families is inevitable. Adding some surety that the moving process is as safe as possible, both helps stop the spread of COVID-19, provides workers with a measure of confidence that their health risk is reduced and provides families with some assurance of safety at one of the most stressful times in their lives.

We recognize there are other high priority workers and high-risk segments of the population who should be first in line. However, as decisions are being made to select the next segment of the workforce/population, allowing BHGS regulated moving industry workers priority access to the vaccine will go a long way toward keeping these essential workers, and the moving public they support, safe from

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the virus, with the added benefit of helping slow the spread of COVID-19 as customers transition to new areas.

The household goods moving industry has taken many measures to keep workers and the customers they support safe during the Pandemic. Movers have enacted policies that support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. But we continue to be aware of the virus spreading from customers to workers and workers to customers. With that in mind, and the fact that Americans must continue to transition from one location to another, we ask that you consider the critical role movers play in our economy as you make plans for the distribution of the vaccine.

Thank you for your support and consideration during this challenging task.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Weitekamp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" being more prominent than the last name "Weitekamp".

Stephen J. Weitekamp
CMSA President
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