



By Electronic Mail

May 14, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

As America rebounds from the COVID-19 crisis, the critical role of domestic and international supply chains has been brought to the fore. In addition to providing life-saving medical supplies and pharmaceutical products, these supply chains undergird the household, personal care and food and beverage products that Americans depend on every day.

Perhaps no time in history has highlighted the degree to which supply chains shape the health and well-being of our nation. At this impactful moment, we respectfully request supply chain performance and resiliency be a focus of your response and rebuilding efforts. Something that may be a valuable tool in expanding national visibility to supply chains is the potential development of a National Supply Chain Index and Performance Dashboard.

The acute evaluation and benchmarking of supply chains and their component parts, inclusive of suppliers, manufacturers, infrastructure and transportation connectivity, would mark an important step toward friction point visibility and pinpointing, prioritizing and addressing supply chain challenges. This kind of index and performance dashboard would enable public and private sector partners to mitigate risk and bolster national competitiveness by getting ahead of issues like those that arose during the pandemic. It also would have significant implications at the state and local level, empowering decisionmakers to take smarter, index-backed courses of action weighing economic and health implications.

A thoughtful and comprehensive supply chain index could assimilate public and private sector data sources to provide an early warning system about supply chain pinch points and disruptions. Applied in the context of economic growth, the added visibility could also inform private sector investment and strategic policymaking, help to forecast inflation or other economic triggers, predict food and essential product access concerns, monitor disaster impacts and aid in emergency response efforts.

Potential index data sources are plentiful, but the performance dashboard's structure and framing should be built out in coordination with government, industry and academic stakeholders to ensure that it meaningfully informs efforts to enhance resiliency and competitiveness.

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Consumer Brands Association has worked closely with the Trump administration and other leaders to protect the supply chain and ensure consumers' access to essential products. We stand willing to further partner and facilitate private sector support and participation in a supply chain performance tool and to assist in any supply chain efforts you may lead in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Madrecki'.

Thomas Madrecki
Vice President, Supply Chain
Consumer Brands Association