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**From:** Broadcast, DOC  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 3:40 PM  
**To:** Broadcast, DOC  
**Subject:** All Hands: A Message from Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross

FOR: All DOC Employees

Colleagues,

As the global COVID-19 outbreak presents an unprecedented challenge for our Nation, I want to express my gratitude to you – the 47,000 men and women of the Commerce Department – for continuing to serve the public at this critical time.

I understand that this time is difficult and stressful, but I want everyone to know that protecting the health and safety of our employees is the highest priority for me and my leadership team.

Department and Bureau leaders, myself included, make numerous operational decisions daily to protect employee health. We are in frequent contact with the White House Coronavirus Task Force and we have set up COVID-19 task forces at the Department and Bureaus that meet multiple times daily.

We are in the middle of a critical 15-day period to help stop the spread of COVID-19. I am proud that you have quickly incorporated the [President's guidance for social distancing](#) into your personal and professional lives. Your commitment to social distancing is saving American lives and setting an example for the public nationwide.

Thank you to our technology teams who have performed incredible work on short notice to keep our employees connected through telework. Thanks to their round-the-clock support of our networks, our Department continues to execute its mission remotely, securely, and productively.

We will continue to stand together as a Department, as a Government, and as citizens to defeat this invisible enemy and protect our people. I have no doubt that our Nation will emerge from this ordeal stronger than ever – and the men and women of the Commerce Department will play a central role in ensuring this happens.

Our leadership team and managers are here to serve you in any way we can. You have my full support and gratitude for your service now and always.

Thank you,

Secretary Wilbur Ross

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