



Associated Builders and Contractors of Florida, Inc.

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Wayne E. Mayo, President & Owner

2020 Chairman of the Board

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Construction Industry is Essential for Florida's Future Economy

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of Florida's Commercial Construction Industry, we want to commend you and your Administration for your handling of the current health crisis. We have been in contact with members of your team, the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and legislative leaders and appreciate the open lines of communication and willingness to discuss next steps. We are here to serve as your partner as you and your Administration look to slow or stop the impact of COVID-19 while caring for Floridians and managing our state's economy. We also respectfully request that you continue to view the Construction Industry as Essential Services to you and the Florida economy.

We are grateful to those Local Governments who continue to view our industry as an essential business partner as we move forward through this new environment. As you know, construction continues to serve as a top driver of Florida's economy, employing hundreds of thousands of individuals from every economic background, and in every corner of the state. They build, maintain and service much of Florida's infrastructure.

Based on input from the CDC, OSHA has developed a hierarchy of industry risk for COVID-19. The lowest risk industries are those with workers that have "minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers." Construction jobsites are not densely populated work areas. Construction sites are a unique workplace with their own levels of "social distancing" built in. Many workers are segregated completely or separated by large distances. Access to jobsites is strictly controlled with the public kept out. Additionally, safety briefings are already part of the construction industry culture, and with the additional guidelines developed by OSHA to address COVID-19, briefings include the extra precautions recommended by the CDC and OSHA.

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Examples of such practices include, but are not limited to the following:

- For offices- member companies are encouraging and allowing as many personnel who can work from home to do so. For those that cannot work from home, they are instituting and observing CDC recommended social distancing policies. They are limiting entrance to offices and moving any and all meetings they can to conference calls, emails and related virtual services.
- For jobsites – member companies are moving meetings typically held inside jobsite trailers to the outdoors or communicating via conference call or email. They are checking workers as they enter the site, reminding workers of CDC recommended social distancing recommendations, increasing sanitation stations, and doing things like payroll in the field rather than in the trailer or in the office.
- For both – companies are limiting if not prohibiting interactions between jobsite teams and office teams.

The impact of potentially shutting down construction in Florida will severely impact the construction and maintenance of critical infrastructure and housing. Worker layoffs will make it extremely difficult for construction companies to meet the demand to maintain existing healthcare facilities and build new ones, retrofit existing buildings for emergency use and providing new transportation corridors for people and materials. Moreover, such a hit to the construction industry workforce will undermine current and future efforts of recovery due to natural disasters. A virus pandemic does not halt the impact of hot Florida summers or an active Hurricane season.

Our association, members and workforce have adapted quickly to this crisis and are your partners in bringing Florida safely out of it. We request that you continue to view construction as an essential business supporting Florida’s residents and economy.

Sincerely,



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