



March 23, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor
State of Maryland
Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol St. NW #267
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
State of New York
Vice Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol St. NW #267
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Govs. Hogan and Cuomo:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 members, I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for your leadership combating the coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you for recognizing the essential nature of the construction industry in America's response to this global health threat. We support your desire to continue construction activity in a safe manner that follows best practices and implements the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's guidelines in order to respond to this unprecedented crisis. ABC members remain committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public.

We write to you today to ask for your help in urging state and local governments to be mindful of the importance of the construction industry and its essential critical infrastructure workers as states and localities draft stay-at-home orders or policies allowing only movement of workers involved in essential businesses.

We ask that you encourage states and localities to carefully consider any action to curtail ongoing critical construction services, treat construction activities as essential services and align policies with the [Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's March 19 Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response](#).

The impact of shutting down all construction work will be severe for the construction 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 structures (such as dorms, hotels and ships) for emergency use, modify manufacturing facilities to meet an increased demand for medical supplies and provide new transportation corridors for people and materials. Moreover, such a hit to the construction industry workforce will harm workforce readiness and undermine current and future efforts to recover from natural disasters. A virus pandemic does not halt hurricanes, tornadoes or floods. Governors across the country have already recognized the important role construction will play during this difficult time and, to various capacities, most state executives have permitted construction activity to remain open thus far.

ABC recognizes that each construction project is unique, and therefore a local decision as to whether the project can be safely delivered is appropriate. ABC has encouraged our members to implement strict measures for the safety of their workforce during these times, including significantly enhanced and modified safety plans as well as stop work plans to effectively mitigate the risk for workers.

Thank you again for your efforts, and for recognizing that the construction industry is a provider of essential services during this uncertain time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Bellaman", followed by a horizontal flourish line.

Michael D. Bellaman
President and CEO