



The Home Builders Association of Greater Austin | 8140 Exchange Drive, Austin, TX 78754
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March 31, 2020

Dear Judge Eckhardt,

Via Sarah.Eckhardt@traviscountytx.gov

As you may be aware, on March 19, 2020, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) designated construction as "Essential Critical Infrastructure". While the majority of the country has followed that guidance, a few jurisdictions, including Travis County, have chosen to restrict certain project types.

In direct response to these restrictions, on March 28, 2020, the DHS CISA issued a follow-up Guidance Memorandum, specifically listing residential construction as an essential critical infrastructure workforce that should be allowed to continue operations.

Functioning critical infrastructure is imperative during the response to the COVID-19 emergency for both public health and safety as well as community well-being. Certain critical infrastructure industries have a special responsibility in these times to continue operations...[including:]

Workers performing housing construction related activities to ensure additional units can be made available to combat the nation's existing housing supply shortage.

(Emphasis added. See <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>).

The US Government has unrivaled access to experts and data, and like all state and local jurisdictions, is inundated with requests, data, comments, etc. while working to protect the health and welfare of our country during these unprecedented times. Therefore, it is especially notable that DHS determined the designation of residential construction as an "essential critical infrastructure workforce" was of such national security interest and importance that DHS needed to issue immediate guidance this past weekend.

It is imperative that Travis County follow this guidance to best protect all of its citizens not only in this moment, but also for the future.

On behalf of the HBA's 750+ member companies, I want to thank you for your leadership and convey our continued desire to partner with you through these unique and difficult times. We will continue to work with you on innovative options that can limit or eliminate physical contact during design, construction and maintenance operations. Construction is inherently more adaptable to social distancing-type work patterns, and the industry is keenly aware of the importance of safety measures even during normal times.

Cont'd.



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The HBA will continue to advise its Members to obey all laws. Please provide us with updates so we can convey them to our Members via a number of platforms, including the HBA COVID-19 response page (www.hbaaustin.com/covid-19).

Together we can stay healthy, ensure our infrastructure remains strong, keep essential critical industry moving, and ensure we all emerge even better.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance. Thank you!

Stay positive, safe and healthy!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ciliberto'.

Carrie L. Ciliberto, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer