
From: Building Industry Association of Washington - BIAW <biaw@biaw.ccsend.com> on behalf of Building Industry Association of Washington - BIAW <communications@biaw.com>

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:09 PM

Subject: BIAW's Efforts With the Governor



Dear Colleague,

The housing industry - builders, remodelers, subcontractor, and vendor associates, plus our collective employees - were severely impacted by Governor Inslee's decision last week to shut down construction by designating housing as nonessential with few exceptions. Many are worried about the health crises and economic impact.

I want to assure you that BIAW staff and leadership are working every resource possible to keep our communities safe and return us to work as soon as safely possible.

Washington is one of only five states halting residential construction during an affordable housing shortage. Last Saturday, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) updated their guidance list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce," adding a new section on Residential/Shelter Facilities that specified, "Workers performing housing construction-related activities to ensure additional units can be made available to combat the nation's existing housing supply shortage." This new designation by DHS on residential construction as "Essential Critical Workforce" does not change Gov. Inslee's mandate, but it provides the opportunity for the governor to reconsider and adjust his order based upon the updated federal guidelines.

BIAW has been in continual contact with the governor's office advocating for our industry. Our local associations and the National Association of Home Builders are working in unison with BIAW to educate the governor that the housing service we provide is "essential." BIAW is also working in conjunction with other business associations and industries, as well as other state and municipal officials.

Housing creates 167,947 jobs across the state, and in addition to providing safe and stable homes for families, residential construction generates over \$8.4 billion to our state's economy, i.e., \$23 million contributed daily. Many of our employees, especially young workers, cannot afford to make ends meet on state subsistence, even if it is available. We want our clients, employees, and their families to be safe. Many job sites can accommodate the health practices to ensure safe working conditions.

I encourage you to look at the [COVID-19 page](#) on the BIAW website for many resources. In addition, BIAW will be hosting two Member Town Halls to provide more information:

- **LEGAL GUIDANCE:** BIAW General Counsel, Jackson Maynard, 3-5 p.m. 3/31/2020 (tomorrow) will provide an overview of the governor's order, where to check if activities are exempt and assist you with specific questions. [Click to RSVP »](#)
- **BUSINESS RESOURCES:** BIAW Executive Vice President, Greg Lane, and staff, 1-3 p.m. 4/2/2020 (Thursday), will review available resources to you, your business, and your employees, including Small Business Administration, Unemployment Insurance, and tax issues. [Click to RSVP »](#)

Please participate in these sessions. You may also send questions to info@biaw.com.

May you, your families, and business associates stay healthy and return to work soon.



Sherry Schwab
President
Building Industry Association of Washington



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