



March 23, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Trump:

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 the work of your administration and those who are spending every hour to keep America safe during this time. As a builder, you understand the importance of construction to America's response to the current conditions, infrastructure and economy, and the need 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 are committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public. We write to you today to ask you to continue to treat construction as an essential service, as outlined in 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](#) and refrain from any action to curtail ongoing critical construction services.

The impact of shutting down 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 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 recognized the important role construction will play during this difficult time and, to various capacities, most state executive thus far has permitted construction activity to remain open.

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 and stop work plans to effectively mitigate the risk for workers.

Thank you again for your efforts and we urge you to continue to recognize construction as essential services during this uncertain time.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Bellaman
President and CEO