January 15, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner
Texas Department of State Health Services
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

Dear Governor Abbott and Commissioner John Hellerstedt;

On behalf of our members representing the commercial real estate industry, I write to thank you for your service during the Covid-19 pandemic and ask that you consider the essential role of building personnel as decisions are made related to vaccine distribution.

During this crisis, our members have remained steadfast in our commitment to our tenants, employees and the public. The vast majority of buildings have never closed, and property owners and managers have continued operations during uncertain times to maintain safe buildings and assure the continuance of essential services. As vaccine prioritization plans are formed in conjunction with the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we offer a reminder that property staff at commercial facilities are essential workers.

As the impact of the pandemic was becoming clear last year, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security released, "Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce." That guidance document identifies the following commercial facilities staff as essential personnel:

> Workers supporting the operations of commercial buildings that are critical to safety, security, and the continuance of essential activities, such as on-site property managers, building engineers, security staff, fire safety directors, janitorial personnel, and service technicians (e.g., mechanical, HVAC, plumbers, electricians, and elevator).

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As our community continues to address this health and economic crisis, the CRE sector will continue to play a leadership role in controlling the spread of the disease. We stand ready to assist your efforts in any way possible. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kristin Chavarria

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