

March 20, 2020

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Dear Mr. President:

As the Administration, Congress and state and local governments continue their tireless work to limit the threat and spread of COVID-19, it is imperative that the industries that build, design and maintain our nation's critical infrastructure and those that provide the essential labor, materials, and support for the construction industry through roadway safety devices and equipment distribution and maintenance are able to perform the necessary work. We are mindful and appreciate the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce and we are seeking further guidance for the infrastructure construction industry.

As such, we join the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce in recommending](#) that your administration issue guidance on these orders to clarify "essential infrastructure" and "essential businesses and services." As the Chamber suggested, we encourage the federal government recommend exemptions for "essential infrastructure" that allows individuals to leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of "essential infrastructure," including, but not limited to, public works construction, airport operations, roads and highways, and public transportation.

Public works construction, roads and highways, transportation infrastructure, and the materials used for these projects are critical to our nation's ability to deliver medical supplies and services, food and goods, and clean water and energy to the American people, especially as we address this pandemic. Our collective members are already going to great lengths and following the recommended public health guidelines to ensure the infrastructure needs of our country continue to be met. Shutting down the ability of our industries to serve our nation and maintain our physical infrastructure will impact the economic viability of the entire nation, not to mention numerous businesses.

Our industries have long been critical to the vitality of our nation and the backbone of our economy. During this critical time in our nation's history, it is imperative that the construction industry is characterized as an "essential industry" exempted from any current or future mandatory shelter in place orders or quarantines. For our members and the men and women in construction, worker safety and health has always been a top priority. Rest assured it will remain that way as we continue to operate during these trying times.

Sincerely,

American Coal Ash Association  
American Concrete Pavement Association  
American Concrete Pipe Association

American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association  
American Concrete Pumping Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Traffic Safety Services Association  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Concrete Foundations Association  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Concrete Masonry Association  
National Electrical Contractors Association  
National Precast Concrete Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
National Stone Sand and Gravel Association  
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute  
Portland Cement Association  
Tilt-Up Concrete Association

CC: The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury

CC: The Honorable Chad Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security

CC: All Governors