

2019-2020 OFFICERS

March 21, 2020

PRESIDENT
JIM BURNETT
Iron Mountain Quarry
BothellThe Honorable Jay Inslee
Washington State Governor
Olympia WA. 98504**VICE PRESIDENT**
JAMES ESSIG
Granite Construction
Everett

RE: Construction Aggregates Industry; an essential industry to support Washington state's infrastructure and economy

SECRETARY/TREASURER
STEVE CORLISS
Corliss Resources
Sumner

Dear Governor Inslee,

PAST PRESIDENT
JIMMY BLAIS
Gary Merlino Construction
Seattle

On behalf of the Washington construction aggregates and products industry, thank you for your continued and aggressive leadership and your efforts to protect and educate Washington citizens and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also extend our thanks to your staff, your state agency teams and the State Health Department for their exceptional efforts on behalf of all Washingtonians.

DIRECTORS**SCOTT NICHOLSON**
CalPortland
Dupont

During this critical time across Washington State and our nation, it is imperative the construction industry is characterized as an "essential industry" exempted from any current or future mandatory shelter in place orders or quarantines. We support the request of the Washington Construction Industry Council (WCIC) to recognize and categorize the Washington construction industry as essential to help support your efforts and protect our state and local communities.

JANA McDONALD
CRH Materials
Spokane**DAVID FREELS**
Godbey Redi Mix
Brewster**WALT MILES**
Miles S & G
Puyallup**CHAD PATTERSON**
Cascade Concrete Prod.
Winthrop**MATT HINCK**
CalPortland
Seattle

In order for the construction industry to be successful, the construction aggregates products industry must also be recognized and classified as an essential industry. These are the companies that uniquely produce the essential and critical supply chain of building materials to support construction of our state's infrastructure system and build our statewide economy. These essential construction aggregate building materials include: sand, gravel, rock, concrete, asphalt, cement and masonry block. These natural materials are necessary for public works projects including roads, bridges and energy production. 51.7% of the construction aggregates we produce are used to build, maintain and preserve Washington's transportation and infrastructure system.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**JASON BREWER**
BASF
Seattle**CEMENT DIRECTOR****DREW JARED**
Ash Grove Cement
Seattle

Recognizing the construction aggregates products industry as essential will support the professional trades that work in our metropolitan areas as well as support the men and women that work in our rural communities across Washington State. These are our employees that depend on good family wage jobs and provide the essential labor to manufacture, deliver and build our state's infrastructure and resilient community structures.

ASSOCIATION STAFF**Bruce Chattin**
Executive Director**Steve Buckner**
Millennia Public Affairs

Public works construction, hospitals, medical facilities and our transportation infrastructure all depend on a readily available supply of construction aggregate materials. These projects are critical to our ability to deliver medical supplies and services, food and goods and clean water and energy as we work to curtail the impacts of this pandemic in our state.

Our member companies take the COVID-19 threat very seriously and have taken action across our industry, as you have directed. This has resulted in social distancing, placing workers in work-from-home situations, reducing face to face meetings and working online.

State Departments of Transportation, construction and critical construction materials have been designated "essentials services" by their Governors, including New York, California, Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The typical language included in the Governor's orders are similar to the following:

"For the purposes of this Order, individuals free from COVID-19 symptoms may leave their residence to provide any supplies or services or to perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of "Essential Infrastructure," including, but not limited to all active construction sites, public works construction and related manufacture of critical construction materials, construction of housing (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), hospitals and medical service buildings, education and education support facilities, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, roads and highways, public transportation, flood control, water conservation, solid waste collection and removal, internet and telecommunications systems, and emergency repair construction, provided that carry out those duties is done in compliance with the social distancing requirements of this Order, to the extent possible."

We respectfully request Washington state recognize construction, construction materials and related public works and infrastructure as described above as "essential services" and WSDOT, construction and construction aggregate material industries be characterized as "essential industries" and exempt from any future mandatory shelter in place orders or quarantines. This will help to insure that critical work is moving forward and a large, robust (but seasonal) portion of our economy remains employed to assist in keeping Washington moving during this unprecedented crisis.

Please feel free to directly contact any of our industry leaders below when considering any closures impacting the Washington State Construction industry. We will make ourselves available to you or your staff 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week to help your office make the best decisions for our employees, their families and our communities in Washington State.

Respectfully,



Bruce Chattin



David Gent / WAPA



Executive Director Washington Aggregates and Concrete Association

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