



March 23, 2020

Governor Brian Kemp
State of Georgia
203 Capitol Place SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Kemp,

The Georgia Ready Mixed Concrete Association would like to thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We all know that you have heavy considerations balancing the health of all Georgians along with keeping our strong economy afloat.

We would like to also thank you for your recent Executive Order No. 03.20.20.02 which included an order to allow the construction industry to immediately utilize third party inspectors in areas where the local government is unable or unwilling to provide the services. This was one of our members' top concerns during the previous week.

While some local governments in Georgia have begun to issue orders limiting certain activities, we know that you also have an obligation to consider what certain types of activities may have to be halted statewide. During these deliberations, we respectfully ask that you consider all construction activities essential during this time.

As you know, the construction industry is vital to the success, infrastructure, and resiliency of Georgia. The industry's role in building, maintaining, and enhancing our infrastructure is essential to the state's ability to overcome this generational challenge.

We ask that you treat construction and the delivery of construction materials as an essential service for the state and refrain from any action curtailing ongoing construction projects. We know that states such as California, New York, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, and Colorado have deemed construction as essential regarding policy and regulations pertaining to COVID-19. The city of Nashville, Tennessee has done so as well.

Based on input from the CDC, OSHA has developed a hierarchy of industry risk for COVID-19. The lowest risk industries are those with workers that have "minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers." Construction jobsites are not densely populated with many workers segregated completely or separated by large distances. Access to jobsites are under strict control and monitoring. Safety meetings are already regular component of the construction industry culture, and with additional guidelines developed by OSHA to address COVID-19, briefings include the extra precautions recommended by the CDC and OSHA.

Not only is a fully operational construction industry necessary for servicing our critical infrastructure and public works, but the industry provides vital economic activity utilizing a non-congregating workforce. Action to ban construction will hinder yet another industry's ability to sustain this crisis.

Thank you for your leadership during these trying times. We appreciate your consideration. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to your office.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Cotty, GRMCA Executive Director

Building Georgia Strong

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