

BUILD WITH STRENGTH

A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

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Contact: Kevin Lawlor

Klawlor@buildwithstrength.com

202-253-6401

Build with Strength Supportive of Construction Designation by the Department of Homeland Security

Industry Designated as 'Essential Infrastructure Business'

Washington, DC — On Saturday, The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), operating under the Secretary of Homeland Security's authorities to secure critical infrastructure, issued an "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce" advisory list. The advisory list was created in collaboration with other federal agencies, state and local governments and the private sector.

Among those designated as essential was the residential construction workforce, including the construction of single-family homes and residential buildings. Several other aspects of the construction industry were also deemed essential in a supportive role to ongoing infrastructure projects (energy, water, transportation, etc.).

The advisory list is not a specific directive by the federal government and state and local officials maintain order on issuing specific guidance and orders. Many states, including California and New York, have deemed construction essential and projects continue without delays or closures.

"This is undoubtedly a good sign for our industry and those that we employ. We feel that state and local governments should follow the directive of the federal government and ensure that, to the extent possible, construction work continue during this time of crisis," said Gregg Lewis, spokesman for Build with Strength. "We have an obligation to keep our workers safe during this time and feel that construction sites are a unique workplace with their own levels of "social distancing" built in. We are also encouraged by the additional safety measures being put in place by the private and public sectors to ensure precautions are being followed by sites and workers."

To date, California, New York, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, Colorado, West Virginia, Arizona, Delaware, Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Connecticut, Washington DC, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Texas, Vermont, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Alabama have already deemed construction to be an essential service and have treated it as such in policy and regulations related to COVID-19.

Build with Strength works with communities, lawmakers, and industry employees to advocate for safer, sustainable building materials. Ensuring that construction is considered an essential service is currently among the organization's top priorities.

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com

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