



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Doug Burgum
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

Dear Governor Burgum:

Thank you for your efforts in the wake of the public health crisis in which we currently find ourselves. We appreciate your leadership and the work of your staff and those who are spending every waking hour keeping us safe.

We're "doing our part ND" too. Our members, and the nearly 35,000 North Dakotans working in the industry are adhering to all public health guidelines set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

In fact, we are going above and beyond – taking extra precautions to keep our employees safe and protect North Dakotans. Construction, by nature, is a practice of social distancing. Most projects have workers dispersed on tasks located more than 6 feet apart.

Please, we have one simple message: keep North Dakota working.

While citizens are coping with a variety of restrictions as a result of the health crisis, it is essential that they have access to our professionals to build and maintain essential services like

plumbing, electrical, HVAC systems, water/wastewater treatment plants and power generation facilities, hospitals and roads, and provide them shelter.

Aside from providing comfort, this equipment is vital for both health and safety reasons as well volume of productivity, particularly for air filtration and food and medical supply preservation, especially in this time of quarantine. When equipment fails, qualified, licensed personnel must be able to repair or replace it as quickly as possible to ensure continued operations.

Simply put, our work supports the front lines of this crisis – we support hospitals and health care facilities; we support education facilities; we support the transportation system, and, we support first responders.

Additionally, it's imperative that permit and inspection personnel at all levels are available to keep these systems operational. If we are to shelter in place, we need to continue to build homes, apartments, and other places of shelter.

Governor, we understand the significance of this health crisis and we fully respect and comply with all restrictions and guidelines. However, we respectfully ask that you allow our industry to continue to do the important work of supporting our front lines and caring for North Dakota.

We request that you consider construction an essential service, so that individuals may continue 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, the permitting, inspection, construction, transfer and recording of ownership, of housing and anything incidental thereto, water, sewer, gas, electrical, roads and highways.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota
Associated General Contractors of North Dakota
North Dakota Association of Builders
North Dakota Association of Plumbing, Heating and Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
North Dakota Concrete Council
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 300