



March 23, 2020

Governor Kristi Noem
Office of the Governor
500 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: South Dakota's Concrete Industry is a Critical Need Sector of our Economy

Dear Governor Noem:

On behalf of South Dakota's concrete industry, thank you for your aggressive leadership while working to protect state residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of discussions in our cities and with other states about what constitutes critical need sectors of our economy, we find it necessary to write to you to be sure you and your team are aware of the essential need for continued operations of the construction industry.

As you know, the concrete manufactured by our industry is critical for projects including hospitals and other medical facilities, as well as public works projects including roads, bridges, schools, and energy production. Lesser known, but just as important, is the role of aggregate production across the state and cement produced in Rapid City to the production of concrete.

Our work supports the front lines of this crisis by allowing the construction industry to contribute to our economy during these trying times. Together, we can continue to keep projects on schedule as our building season is short and provide those working with some normalcy. We've shown that we can rebuild from tornados. We've quickly mobilized to rebuild from floods. We are an essential service to South Dakotans and to our economy.

Our concrete association members understand the significance of this health crisis and we fully respect and comply with the restrictions and guidelines. Worker safety, training, and health have always been a top priority in our industry. Rest assured it will remain that way as we continue to operate during these trying times.

We urge you to recognize the concrete, cement and aggregate industries as a critical service that should be continued during this time to support our state's resiliency efforts.

We are committed to making ourselves available to communicate 24-hours-per-day, 7-days-per-week to help your office make the best decisions for our residents.

Contact me at any time at 605-366-9585 or jtitze@sdrmca.org.

Respectfully,

Jody L Titze

Jody Titze, PE
SDRMCA Executive Director