

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Tim Walz, Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

Thank you for your leadership during a very challenging time for our State and for all its citizens. As Minnesotans, we all pride ourselves on our hearty roots and resilient nature. With your leadership, we will weather this current storm.

The construction industry recognizes the challenges that lie before us and we want to assure you that we are ready and willing to do our part to keep Minnesota moving forward. The work of our industry is essential to the social and economic vitality of the State, and we are ready to answer the call.

The nature of our work is such that it can be accomplished while observing the CDC's guidelines on social distancing. Much of our work is performed outdoors and is regularly performed with spacing of 6' or more between workers. It is also a natural part of our work to complete unique physical challenges, while taking necessary precautions for the health and safety of our workers and the public. In short, our industry is uniquely equipped to complete the essential tasks of building and maintaining infrastructure, while also protecting the health of our workers and those around them.

Our industry provides the infrastructure that is absolutely necessary for the comfort, safety, and well-being of all Minnesotans. We produce the rock, sand, concrete, and asphalt that must be available on-demand to maintain our transportation and public works facilities. We build and maintain the streets, roads, highways, and airports that connect Minnesotans with food, shelter, and hospitals. Our work is just as vital today, as it will be during recovery, perhaps even moreso.

In recognition of the essential nature of our work, we would direct you to the Department of Homeland Security's March 19th "Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response". Under the heading of "Transportation and Logistics", please note that it includes "employees who repair and maintain... infrastructure that enables operations that encompass movement of cargo and passengers". Please also note, under the heading of "Public Works", the Department includes "workers that support the operation, inspection, and maintenance of" various types of essential infrastructure.

We recognize the tremendous challenges that your office must face in order to lead Minnesotans out of our current crisis. Furthermore, we ask that you keep our industry engaged to do our part for the safety, security, and health of all Minnesotans. We ask that you recognize the construction workers, including workers in supply of construction materials, as essential critical infrastructure workers.

Sincerely,

Abby Bryduck, Minnesota Asphalt Paving Association
John C. Cunningham, Aggregate Ready Mix Association of Minnesota
Matt J. Zeller, Concrete Paving Association of Minnesota



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