

March 23, 2020

Governor Andy Beshear  
PO Box 12428  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear,

On behalf of the Kentucky Concrete Association, we want to extend a sense of gratitude and appreciation for your leadership in confronting the COVID-19 epidemic. Your recent policy adjustments and continued work will help those that are suffering from the virus, their families and help to minimize the virus' impact in our state.

The Kentucky Concrete Association represents the hardworking men and women of the Concrete Industry in Kentucky. Their tireless efforts provide the Commonwealth the success that is needed to continually improve the economic stability of Kentucky.

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

While this remains constant, state and local governments across the country are understandably issuing orders to halt business operations and for residents to stay home unless absolutely necessary. These measures, while necessary, have obviously had a significant impact on the economy and day to day life.

We ask that you treat construction and the delivery of construction materials as an essential service for the state and refrain from any action to curtail ongoing construction projects in your deliberations and planning for combating this virus. As higher risk industries are being impacted by the spread of COVID-19, it is more important to the long-term health of our economy to keep the construction industry intact. To date, California, New York, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, and Colorado have already deemed construction to be an essential service and have treated it as such in policy and regulations related to COVID-19. Pennsylvania has also permitted the continuation of emergency construction.

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 job sites are not densely populated work areas. Construction sites are a unique workplace with their own levels of "social distancing" built in. Many workers are segregated completely or separated by large distances. Access to job sites is under strict control and monitoring. Additionally, safety briefings are already part of the construction industry culture, and with the additional guidelines developed by OSHA to address COVID-19, briefings include the extra precautions recommended by the CDC and OSHA.

It is imperative that the construction industry be exempt from mass closures or quarantines. 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 sites will hinder yet another industry's ability to sustain this crisis financially.

Thank you for your leadership during these trying times. We appreciate your time and your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

R. Finley Messick

Executive Director

Kentucky Concrete Association