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March 24, 2020

Office of Governor Pete Ricketts  
State Capitol  
PO Box 94848  
Lincoln, Ne 68509-4848

RE: Concrete Materials and Construction are Essential to the Infrastructure of Nebraska

Dear Governor Ricketts:

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

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

As you know, the concrete materials and construction industry are critical for public works projects including roads, bridges, schools, and energy production. No other state has recently proven this more than Nebraska during the 2019 flooding crisis. Based on input from the CDC AND 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 jobsites 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. Public safety has always been critical on construction sites and public access to job sites continues to be under strict control and monitoring. Additionally, safety briefings are already part of the construction industry culture, and with additional guidelines developed by OSHA to address COVID-19, briefings include the extra precautions recommended by the CDC and OSHA.

We ask that you join other states to 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.

As you and your staff consider further economic orders that result in the shutdown of sectors of our economy, please be aware of the many, wide-ranging products that the concrete, aggregates, cement materials, and construction industries create as part of the supply-chain of critical need items.

We take the COVID-19 threat seriously and have taken actions across the industry, as you have directed, ranging from social distancing and placing office workers in work-from-home situations.

We urge you to directly contact me or other industry leaders when considering any closures of Nebraska's concrete industry. We will make ourselves available for communication 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help your office make the best decision for Nebraska residents.

Please feel free to contact Jeff or Bruce at any time via phone or e-mail.

Respectfully,



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