



March 24, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor
State of Maryland
Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol St NW #267
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
State of New York
Vice Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol St NW #267
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Governors Logan and Cuomo,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing the roofing industry, thank you for your bipartisan leadership of the National Governors Association, and your hard work combating the coronavirus pandemic and supporting American families and businesses. Like all significant challenges we have faced as a nation, this one requires the swift response of the private and public sectors.

As the U.S. confronts the current public health crisis related to the coronavirus pandemic, we write to express our strong concerns with respect to state and local regulations governing “essential businesses, workers and infrastructure” during this critical time. We ask that you and governors across the nation include language that encompasses roofing industry companies (including contractors, manufacturers and their raw material suppliers and distributors) as orders are written, maintained or modified.

Additionally, to help ensure consistency and effectiveness of state and local declarations and orders, we urge state, counties, cities and other jurisdictions to expeditiously develop model language to define “essential businesses, workforce and infrastructure.” In addition to the guidance released by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, we strongly recommend looking to the orders Governors DeWine of Ohio and Pritzker of Illinois issued for model language that covers construction (roofing and other trades) as essential services and the manufacturing, distribution and supply chain that provides products and services to the construction and roofing industries.

The U.S. roofing industry, including manufacturers and their raw material suppliers, distributors and roofing contractors, is an essential \$150 billion sector with an estimated 1.1 million employees that provides critical materials and services to ensure home and business safety. We are integral to the critical infrastructure that will enable our nation to see through our current times and help our communities rebound quickly. The products we make and install protect hospitals, grocery stores, pharmacies and other businesses actively providing critical care and resources to thousands of Americans in need of assistance during this time of crisis, as well as families who are being asked to shelter in place or otherwise take every measure to remain indoors.

For example, as the role of hospitals becomes more critical in providing care our fellow citizens need at this time, it will be necessary that roofing companies are able to quickly fix roof leaks or provide other essential services to keep these buildings operating safely. Also, as we head into the spring and summer months, it is vital the roofing industry be prepared and well-resourced to quickly respond to the impacts that extreme weather and natural disasters historically have inflicted on homes and buildings.

We are doing our part to employ prudent measures to prevent the spread of infection at facilities, sites and projects, and most roofing work is performed outdoors where open air helps mitigate risk to employees. To continue our vital work, we encourage federal, state and local officials to partner with the roofing industry to address the challenges ahead in a comprehensive, coordinated manner.

The roof is the first line of defense against the elements and extreme weather, and there is nothing more important than a sound roof in protecting American families and businesses as they take action to address this crisis and sustain our economy. The undersigned groups look forward to working with you to provide the clear guidance needed to fully recognize the essential role the roofing industry plays in responding to this crisis.

We greatly appreciate your consideration and thank you for your strong leadership during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Reed Hitchcock
Executive Vice President
Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association

Ellen Thorp
Executive Director
EPDM Roofing Association

Roy Wright
President & Chief Executive Officer
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Karl Hielscher
Executive Director
Metal Construction Association

Reid Ribble
Chief Executive Officer
National Roofing Contractors Association

Renae Bales
Chairwoman
National Women in Roofing

Justin Koscher
President
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers
Association

Daniel Quinonez
Executive Director
Roof Coatings Manufacturers
Association

Mike Hubbard
President
Single Ply Roofing Industry

Joseph Jenkins
Executive Director
Slate Roofing Contractors
Association of North America Inc.

Rick Olson
President
Tile Roofing Industry Alliance

CC: All U.S. Governors