



March 23, 2020

The Honorable Governor Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Gov. McMaster:

On behalf of Carolinas AGC (Associated General Contractors), let us first thank you for your leadership in confronting the COVID-19 epidemic facing South Carolina. Your recent actions and support will certainly aid in “flattening the curve” of infection. The construction industry is vital to the success of South Carolina and critical to the resiliency of the state and its people.

We are concerned about the possibility that state and local government may be considering a possible blanket shutdown of operations without an exemption for personnel that support construction activities. We strongly recommend that local and state government treat construction as essential services that should be continued in this time of crisis. While there is a risk of communicable diseases in every industry, construction sites are a unique workplace with their own levels of “social distancing” built in. They also are often tightly controlled, with the required safety protocols and separation from the general public.

In looking at the issue of “Essential Infrastructure,” CAGC recommends that it would include but not be limited to all active construction job sites, public works construction, construction of housing (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), hospitals and medical service buildings, education and education support facilities, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, flood control and water conservation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), and emergency repair construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Dave Simpson
President & CEO, Carolinas AGC