

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Michael Parson  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Parson,

Thank you for your efforts in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, in which we currently find ourselves. We appreciate your leadership and the work of your staff and those who are spending every waking hour keeping us safe.

We're doing our part too. Our members, and the nearly 128,000 Missourians working in the industry are adhering to all public health guidelines set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Construction, by nature, is a practice of social distancing. Most projects have workers dispersed on tasks located more than 6 feet apart.

We write to you today with a simple message: Missouri engineering, design, and construction jobs are essential.

While citizens are coping with a variety of restrictions as a result of the health crisis, it is essential that they have access to our professionals to engineer, design, build, and maintain essential services like water/wastewater treatment plants, power generation facilities, hospitals, bridges, and roads, and provide them shelter.

Aside from providing comfort, the facilities we engineer, design and construct and maintain are essential for both health and safety reasons as well volume of productivity, particularly for food and medical supply line preservation, especially in this time of quarantine. When these facilities fail, qualified, licensed Missouri engineering, design, and construction personnel must be able to repair or replace them as quickly as possible to ensure continued operations.

Simply put, our work supports the front lines of this crisis – we support hospitals and health care facilities; we support the transportation system, and, we support first responders.

Stopping our work will have significant, unintended consequences, and contractual implications for not only those on the front line but also for our economy. Work stoppages in this industry will reverberate through financial markets and unwind a network of contracting and employment issues. At a time when the unemployment infrastructure is already being stressed, adding 128,000 more would be catastrophic.

Additionally, it's imperative that permit and inspection personnel at all levels are available to keep these systems operational. If we are to shelter in place, we need to continue to build homes, apartments, and other places of shelter.

Governor, we understand the significance of this health crisis and we fully respect and comply with all restrictions and guidelines. However, we respectfully ask that you allow our industry to continue to do the important work of supporting our front lines and caring for Missouri.

We request that you consider engineering, design, and construction essential services, so that individuals may continue to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and

maintenance of “essential infrastructure,” including, but not limited to, public works construction, the engineering, design, permitting, inspection, construction, transfer and recording of ownership, of housing and anything incidental thereto, water, sewer, gas, electrical, bridges, roads and highways.

Sincerely,

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