



April 27, 2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: Reopening of the Michigan Economy Responsibly with the Roofing Industry

Dear Governor Whitmer:

The undersigned organizations represent the contractors, manufacturers and distributors that make up the residential and commercial roofing industry in Michigan. As you develop a plan for reopening Michigan's economy, we ask that the roofing industry and the supply chain that directly supports it be identified in your plan as a business activity that is essential and can operate safely in accordance with the appropriate government guidelines and required COVID-19 mitigation protocols. Such a determination is warranted for the following reasons:

A roof is the first line of defense in protecting critical infrastructure. Whether it be hospitals, grocery stores, other essential businesses or the homes of families who are sheltering in place, our industry needs to be able to provide essential services to the public. Unnecessary delays in roofing work on existing buildings and homes creates a risk that families and businesses will suffer potentially physical harm as well as financial harm. Unnecessary delays also jeopardize our ability to meet the public's demand for new roofs in a timely manner.

The roofing industry has well established safety protocols that will keep workers safe. Worker safety and jobsite best practices are a priority focus throughout the industry. The trade associations representing the roofing industry have extensive training and education programs available that are frequently the product of coordination with the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Individual companies make worker safety their first focus.

Roofing workers are generally isolated from other trades during the majority of their work since they are on the roof and away from other construction activity. This is particularly true in reroofing projects where roofing workers may be the only trade on a job and there may be minimal, if any, contact with building occupants. During the COVID-19 pandemic, NRCA has developed focused work practices to protect roofing

workers while they conduct the critical work of keeping buildings weathertight. These enhanced worker protection protocols, targeted to minimizing exposure to the virus, are available to any roofing professional who visits NRCA's website at www.nrca.net.

Construction is recognized as essential in guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has issued guidance on those workers who are essential to continued critical infrastructure viability. Construction and its supply chain are included in that guidance, which has been adopted by the majority of state issued "stay at home" orders.

Construction will propel the economic recovery. Housing is currently 14.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of the United States and is a major engine of the economy. Keeping this industry open for business moderates the current economic crisis and provides a foundation for the future recovery. New home construction also addresses the housing affordability crisis. The commercial construction sector is equally integral to the economic recovery in your state and is responsible for the vertical infrastructure that was in dire need of repair and construction pre-crisis. The industry's worker shortage also offers an opportunity to put the Michigan workforce back on its feet.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in steering Michigan through this great health and economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Reed Hitchcock
Executive Vice President
Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers
Association

Ellen Thorp
Executive Director
EPDM Roofing Association

Roy Wright
President and Chief Executive Officer
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