



MEMORANDUM

To: Governor Ron DeSantis

From: Linda Bauer Darr
President & CEO
The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)

Allen Douglas
Executive Director
The American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida

Date: March 23, 2020

Subject: Maintaining essential services

On behalf of the nation's engineering industry, in particular the 350 ACEC-FL member firms and their approximately 20,000 employees, we urge you to support exemptions to any shelter-in-place or quarantine orders for "essential infrastructure" that allows individuals 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, airport operations, roads and highways, and public transportation.

We wish to commend you on the bold actions you have taken to date, and all the state and local agencies in Florida that have already taken steps to ensure that critical infrastructure projects and related services – including engineering – continue in a manner consistent with protecting human health. Engineering firms in particular play an essential role in inspecting and improving critical infrastructure, including bridges, public transportation, water and wastewater facilities, energy, and other areas of the built environment critically important to our daily lives.

ACEC has joined many organizations that also play an important role in maintaining and protecting the nation's critical infrastructure in urging the White House to support this principle – that letter can be accessed [here](#). We have also circulated an op-ed to support this policy, which can be accessed [here](#). Thank you for your attention and consideration, and please let us know how we can assist you through this challenging time.

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