March 24, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.       The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor              Governor
State of Maryland            State of New York
Chair               Vice Chair
National Governors Association            National Governors Association
444 North Capitol St NW #267        444 North Capitol St NW #267
Washington, DC  20001          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      Ellen Thorp
Executive Vice President    Executive Director
Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association    EPDM Roofing Association

Roy Wright      Brian Pallasch
President & Chief Executive Officer    Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety    International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants

Karl Hielscher      Reid Ribble
Executive Director    Chief Executive Officer
Metal Construction Association    National Roofing Contractors Association

Renae Bales      Justin Koscher
Chairwoman    President
National Women in Roofing    Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association

Daniel Quinonez      Mike Hubbard
Executive Director    President
Roof Coatings Manufacturers Association    Single Ply Roofing Industry

Joseph Jenkins      Kurt Riesenber
Executive Director    Executive Director
Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America Inc.    Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance

Rick Olson
President
Tile Roofing Industry Alliance

CC: All U.S. Governors