May 12, 2020

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: Reopening of the New Jersey Economy Responsibly with the Roofing Industry

Dear Governor Murphy:

The undersigned organizations represent the contractors, manufacturers, distributors and consultants that make up the residential and commercial roofing industry in New Jersey. As you develop plans to reopen New Jersey’s economy, we respectfully request that any changes to the state’s existing stay-at-home order or implementation of a phased reopening be inclusive of the roofing industry and its supply chain. We believe the roofing industry is an essential business activity that 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 can possibly create 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, the National Roofing Contractors Association (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 minimize exposure to the virus, are available to any roofing professional who visits NRCA’s website at www.nrca.net.

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 helps moderate 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 New Jersey workforce back on its feet.

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.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in steering New Jersey 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, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Brian Pallasch, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President, International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants

Julie Palmer, President, International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants – Delaware Valley Chapter

Edward Madocks, President, International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants – Metro New York Chapter

Karl Hielscher, Executive Director, Metal Construction Association

Reid Ribble, Chief Executive Officer, National Roofing Contractors Association

Renae Bales, Chairwoman, National Women in Roofing

Patsy Sweeney, Associate Executive Director, North/East Roofing Contractors Association Inc.
Justin Koscher, President, Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association

Daniel Quinonez, Executive Director, Roof Coatings Manufacturers Association

Mike Hubbard, President, Single Ply Roofing Industry

Joseph Jenkins, Executive Director, Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America Inc.

Kurt Riesenber, Executive Director, Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance

Rick Olson, President, Tile Roofing Industry Alliance
May 12, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NY State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

RE: Reopening of the New York Economy Responsibly with the Roofing Industry

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The undersigned organizations represent the contractors, manufacturers, distributors and consultants that make up the residential and commercial roofing industry in New York. As you implement the state’s phased plan for reopening – New York Forward – we respectfully request that any guidance for the restart of “Phase One” priority industries like construction be inclusive of the roofing industry and its supply chain. We believe the roofing industry is an essential business activity that 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 can possibly create 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, the National Roofing Contractors Association (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 minimize exposure to the virus, are available to any roofing professional who visits NRCA’s website at www.nrca.net.

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 helps moderate 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 New York workforce back on its feet.

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.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in steering New York 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, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
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