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” 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.

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
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety  Vice President
International Institute of Building
Enclosure Consultants

Karl Hielcher  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
Association

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

Rick Olson
President
Tile Roofing Industry Alliance

CC: All U.S. Governors