



TEXAS BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Subject: COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure and Essential Services

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful response to the COVID-19 crisis. Under your guidance, businesses in Texas have taken drastic measures to comply with safety and social distancing recommendations. Texas Business Roundtable member organizations are committed to the health and safety of all Texans, and to the continued viability of the Texas economy.

As you know, counties and local governments in Texas are considering shelter-in-place orders restricting operations of non-essential functions. Many of those local governments are in the process of developing guidelines that may not be consistent with other areas of the state. Assuming Texas does not adopt a statewide shelter-in-place strategy that pre-empts those ordered by local governments, we respectfully request that you offer uniform guidance on critical infrastructure and essential service businesses for every jurisdiction in the state to follow. At a minimum, such guidance should include specific language exempting critical infrastructure industries, as identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Memorandum dated March 19, 2020. It should also define "Essential Businesses" broadly enough to enable businesses that provide necessary goods and services that ensure the consistent and continuous functioning of the underlying economy to maintain their operations, subject to appropriate social distancing guidelines.

Texas Business Roundtable members stand ready to assist in any way as you consider how to best safeguard our communities. Toward that end, we would be happy to coordinate with your office to offer facilities for drop-off or collection of personal protection equipment or any other functions necessary to the continued health and safety of our communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and guidance.

Regards,

Carol Sims
Director

cc: Members, Texas Business Roundtable

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF TEXAS
ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS - TEXAS BUILDING BRANCH
ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS - HIGHWAYS & HEAVY UTILITIES
ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRIC COMPANIES OF TEXAS
INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF TEXAS
TEXANS FOR LAWSUIT REFORM
TEXAS APARTMENT ASSOCIATION
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
TEXAS AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION
TEXAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
TEXAS CABLE ASSOCIATION
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