



March 20, 2020

Office of the Governor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Governor Noem;

In this trying time, AGC of SD is working diligently to work with our members to provide guidance and assistance for safe, continued operations. Working with excellent support from AGC of America as well as guidelines from the CDC, DLR and other governmental agencies we have created and provided materials that our members can put into practice today to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 infection, while still allowing much needed community building projects and economic development to progress.

We understand that you are going to be challenged with determining what businesses are considered essential for the safety and well-being of South Dakotans. We'd like you to consider the following points regarding the construction industry:

- Many projects from clinics and hospitals to safe roadways are critical for South Dakotans who rely on these every day. The halt of business will have deep ramifications for an indeterminate period of time as we also have to consider weather delays as well as those caused by potential shortages of supplies.
- Currently contractors are considered essential for school districts in their operations.
- Manufacturing of construction materials including cement and concrete products are considered essential.
- Commercial construction has a huge impact on local and statewide economic development. The number of employees and their families affected will be significant statewide.
- The majority of projects are conducted in closed sites protecting the general public from exposure. For instance, highway construction projects do not require workers to be in close proximity of each other. Furthermore, many of our employees run heavy equipment and drive trucks where they are in complete isolation.
- All access to jobsites are controlled and employees can be screened to prevent exposure and spread of the virus.
- The safety of our employees are paramount to the construction industry and the ability to apply a mandate for 6' social distancing for employees is attainable in the workplace.
- Like healthcare, the construction workforce is familiar with and trained on the use of Personal Protection Equipment.
- Showing our community a sense of normalcy where possible at this critical time is imperative. Construction is very visible in our communities and we believe can be conducted safely at this time with recommended safety policies put into place.
- The majority of contractors have Safety Directors on staff to implement COVID-19 policies on job sites.
- AGC of SD has a Safety Director and personnel located in Sioux Falls and Rapid City for local assistance.

We would welcome any further conversation regarding how the AGC of SD can work with your staff to continue moving South Dakota forward in this unprecedented time. We can get through this by working together!

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