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March 20, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Republican Governors Association  
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Governor Abbott:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and its more than 27,000 construction company members, I call upon governors to treat the construction industry and the work it performs as one of the critical industries that must remain in operation.

Construction workers provide an invaluable economic service, maintaining and improving public infrastructure such as roads and bridges, and social infrastructure, including police, fire and health care facilities. They continue to work every day on public and social infrastructure projects that contribute to economic vitality as much of the rest of the economy is growing idle. Moreover, as the need for the construction of temporary health facilities grows and any response to natural disasters needs to be immediate, mobilizing the men and women of the construction industry will be more expedient if they are already working.

While many businesses that require significant public interaction have been forced to shutter, the construction industry is operating in a manner consistent with the social distancing and hygiene instructions recommended by the federal government. In addition, construction workers are wearing personal protective equipment that provide additional safeguards and construction firms are monitoring employees as they enter the jobsite.

As many governors and local officials have, and are considering, shutting down construction projects, I am asking you to exercise leadership as chairman of the Republican Governors Association and send a strong message to your colleagues that construction workers are part of the essential critical infrastructure workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steph E Sandherr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen E. Sandherr  
CEO, AGC of America