



March 20, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

As the country continues to stop the spread of COVID-19, we are seeing state and local governments promulgating quarantine orders and mandatory business closures. The National Demolition Association (NDA) supports several public health measures that will help limit the spread of the virus. However, it is important that these orders do not inadvertently harm the demolition, recycling and remediation industries and that they be designated as “essential”.

The demolition industry is essential in supporting the infrastructure needed to successfully combat this pandemic. The demolition and remediation industry is vital to the health and safety of all Americans, including decontamination of affected areas, remediation of environmental hazards or contaminated property to ensure vital services, including hospitals and emergency services remain open. Therefore, we recommend that your administration issue guidance on these orders to clarify “essential infrastructure” and “essential businesses and services” to include demolition contractors, along with businesses involved in material recycling, including hazardous material, and businesses conducting remediation work. In addition to the crucial support that these businesses give to the construction and demolition industry, these businesses work to protect the health and safety of workers and the general public.

Several counties have promulgated mandatory quarantines that include specific exceptions for “essential infrastructure” and “essential business” and we recommend exemptions for “essential infrastructure” that that allows individuals to leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of “essential infrastructure,” including, but not limited to, demolition, industrial recycling, remediation and other related tasks.

Lastly, NDA asks that you remain open to adding more items to specified “essential businesses and services” and “essential infrastructure” as conditions continue to change. We will be sharing this with the federal departments under your purview. Thank you for your attention to this concern and for protecting the demolition, which is vital to combating COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lambert", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Lambert
CEO
National Demolition Association



cc:

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of Labor

Centers for Disease Control