

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

We're writing as the organizations representing companies that distribute, maintain, repair and manufacture heavy construction equipment to urge you to reassess your ban on construction projects continuing in Washington during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Together we represent eight equipment manufacturers and 134 dealer locations in Washington that support more than 24,400 jobs and contribute \$2.4 billion annually to the state's economy. Our organizations are a part of the critical infrastructure community that plays an integral role in protecting, maintaining and building infrastructure vital to the security, safety and resiliency of our communities.

We want to thank you for your efforts to protect Washington residents and businesses during these unprecedented times. Like you, the construction industry takes the health and safety of the state very seriously.

As you deal with the ongoing and everchanging circumstances surrounding COVID-19, please reconsider the essential nature of the construction industry and the health and safety precautions inherent in the sector. Building and maintaining Washington's vital infrastructure is key to ensuring critical goods are delivered in a timely manner, expanding health service capacity, and guaranteeing water, electricity and other crucial services are uninterrupted.

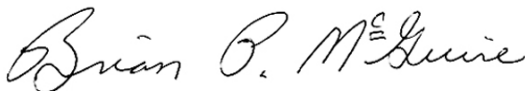
Construction is a social distancing profession and workers commonly wear personal protective equipment, including gloves, face shields and masks, which helps protect them and their co-workers from many health hazards. In response to COVID-19, the industry has only gotten more diligent to safeguard the health of its workers. The order to halt construction is doing more harm than good for construction workers, residents, the local economy and our member companies that supply the equipment used on projects.

Economic harm is inevitable as we navigate the uncharted waters of a global pandemic. Impacting several critical infrastructure sectors, shutting down construction projects in Washington not only jeopardizes continued relief and prevention efforts surrounding COVID-19, but will also exacerbate an already dire situation with little safety or health benefit.

Our industry stands ready to help in any way to ensure public safety while maintaining Washington's economic livelihood. If we can provide useful information towards meeting these goals, please know we would be happy to provide more detail or help in any way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian P. McGuire
President & CEO
Associated Equipment Distributors



Dennis Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers