



David Killam
Chairman

D. Todd Staples
President

March 21, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Guidance on critical infrastructure workers

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for your leadership and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are unprecedented times and we know Texas is leading the way to ensure our citizens and communities can weather the storm and rebound in a safe and responsible manner.

We appreciate your commitment to critical infrastructure and your guidance in the most recent state-wide restrictions. We are proud of the way our cities and counties have been addressing these very difficult issues. Our member companies are doing their part by adopting recommended and required workplace protocols and continuously review the requirements of the many jurisdictions and regulatory entities at all levels of government.

As you know, some states and local governments across the country have imposed "shelter in place" orders restricting the work and activities of employees in "non-essential businesses." Should entities in our state issue similar orders, it is imperative that Texas lead in promoting consistent guidance and rules of what are essential and critical businesses to keep the safety and wellbeing of our citizens a priority.

We ask that your office and all local governments and emergency management leadership continue to ensure any restrictions, and especially any "shelter in place" orders, include an exemption for industries and employees outlined in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [guidance](#) on critical infrastructure workers issued on March 19, 2020.

Our Association members and the industry sectors in this guidance provide many critical functions, particularly in times of national crisis. Businesses, employers and employees must have clear guidance and instructions that are consistent across jurisdictions. The federal government, as part of the [CISA guidelines](#), has provided ways to clearly identify critical infrastructure sectors during COVID-19.

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We believe the guidance set forth is an invaluable tool in ensuring a safe recovery while maintaining essential services and products for the citizens of this state and nation.

Thank you for your leadership and all you do.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Staples". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Todd Staples

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Dan Patrick
The Honorable Dennis Bonnen
Texas Mayors
Texas County Judges