



March 19, 2020

Councilmember Joe Buscaino
President
National League of Cities
660 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Mayor Bryan K. Barnett
President
The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Councilmember Buscaino and Mayor Barnett:

On behalf of Associated Equipment Dealers (AED) and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), we're writing to urge you to encourage you and your colleagues, as the frontline leaders fighting the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in communities across the United States, to allow construction projects to continue in your cities during these trying times. We represent a segment 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.

AED is the trade association representing companies that sell, rent, service and manufacture construction, mining, farm, energy, forestry, industrial equipment and related supplies. Its 500 distributor members, which are predominantly small-medium-sized, family-owned businesses, have over 3,500 locations, employ 150,000 workers and account for more than \$60 billion of annual sales revenue.

AEM is the North American-based international trade group representing off-road equipment manufacturers and suppliers, with more than 1,000 companies and more than 200 product lines in the agriculture and construction-related industry sectors worldwide. The equipment manufacturing industry supports 1.3 million jobs in the U.S. equipment manufacturers also contribute \$159 billion to the U.S. economy.

We want to thank you and your colleagues for your efforts to protect residents and businesses during these unprecedented times. Like you, equipment distributors, manufacturers and our contractor customers take the health and safety of cities very seriously.

As you deal with the ongoing and unpredictable circumstances surrounding COVID-19, please consider the essential nature of the construction industry and the health and safety precautions inherent in the sector. 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.

Any order to halt construction will do more harm than good for construction workers, residents, the local economy and construction equipment manufacturers and distributors that make, supply and maintain 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 cities and towns 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian P. McGuire
President & CEO
Associated Equipment Distributors

Dennis Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers