

MIKE TURZAI  
Speaker of the House

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March 22, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
Room 225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

I write to ask that you allow residential home construction projects and all other construction projects already underway to continue.

Many projects under construction are partially built and, as a result, pose risks to public health and safety that must be immediately addressed. Additionally, leaving partially built homes and other construction sites exposed to the elements will compromise the integrity of building material and will add additional financial loss. At a minimum, firms should be given the ability to perform the following essential functions as it relates to these homes, other construction projects and neighborhoods:

- (1) Weather-in all home components by completing the installation of exterior framing, roofs, siding, windows, and doors;
- (2) Complete the installation of any utilities where trenches or other site infrastructure are open or otherwise exposed;
- (3) Complete any earthmoving activities necessary to stabilize construction sites and prevent soil erosion and damage from stormwater;
- (4) Secure equipment and materials from theft, fire or deterioration; and
- (5) Take any other steps necessary to secure sites under active construction in order to mitigate the risk of injury, looting, or environmental contamination.

In addition to protecting public health and safety, the performing of the above work is essential to home builders' and other building trades' adherence to applicable regulatory requirements, including local building codes and ordinances, state requirements governing stormwater discharge, and federal rules related to the Occupational and Health Safety Act (OSHA).

Home builders have indicated to us that they are able to adhere to the social distancing practices and other mitigation measures defined by the Centers for Disease Control to protect workers and to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Legislative leaders have received hundreds of emails and phone calls this weekend from individuals working in this industry asking for relief. By way of example, I am attaching to this letter a copy of the waiver request that was submitted by Pennsylvania based Charter Homes & Neighborhoods.

I urge you to allow these hard-working Pennsylvanians to return to work so that they can secure their job sites and avoid unnecessary financial losses.

Sincerely,



Mike Turzai  
Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Member, 28th Legislative District

CC: The Honorable Dennis Davin, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development  
The Honorable Bryan Cutler, Majority Leader, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
The Honorable Stan Saylor, Chairman, Majority Appropriations Committee, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kerry Benninghoff, Majority Whip, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
The Honorable Marcy Toepel, Majority Caucus Chair, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
The Honorable Donna Oberlander, Majority Policy Chair, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kurt Masser, Majority Caucus Administrator, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mike Reese, Majority Caucus Secretary, Pennsylvania House of Representatives