



March 27, 2020

To: The Honorable _____

Governor of the State of _____

Dear Governor,

On behalf of the fenestration, door and access control and hardware industry organizations listed below, we contact you to recommend you strongly consider policy proposals to support uninterrupted operations for critical infrastructure and essential services by ensuring that exterior door, window, and access systems in commercial, industrial and residential buildings can be kept in reliable working order. It is important that “stay-at-home” orders do not impact the repair and replacement of these systems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge you to ensure that maintenance and service activities for these systems in our nation’s existing buildings stock be designated as “essential infrastructure businesses”.

We stand with you during this pandemic and look to you for leadership to steer our communities through the crisis. We support efforts from other groups including the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) that focus on the essential nature of new construction, but want to remind you that maintenance of critical facilities- including access for personnel, vehicles, and transportation of goods- depends on safety, security, and access to property and buildings.

As state and local governments issue public health orders as a result of the pandemic, we believe it is essential that communities have uninterrupted access to our professionals, and their supply chain, in order to maintain essential services including the maintenance, repair and replacement of exterior windows, doors, garage doors, and access systems.

Further, we ask that you consider these points made by NAHB in their communication to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS):

- *Recognize that construction of single-family and multi-family housing is essential and should be allowed to continue under a remain in place order;*
- *Government functions related to the building and development process, such as inspections, permitting and plan review services can be modified to protect the public health, but fundamentally should continue and serve the construction of housing (E.g., Allow qualified private third-party inspections in case of government shutdown);*
- *Supply stores, distributors and manufacturers of building products necessary to serve the construction, repair and maintenance of housing should be allowed to operate; and*
- *Those working in building trades must be allowed to continue to maintain the essential operation of residences and other operating businesses.*

The fenestration, door and access control and hardware industry supports operations in full compliance with public health guidelines published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

We, the undersigned, ask you to consider maintenance, repair, and replacement of doors, windows, garage doors and access systems, and the manufacturing of those products, as essential services so that individuals and businesses may continue to provide the materials and work necessary to maintain operations, access, and security of the “Essential Infrastructure.” Thank you for your leadership, dedication, and efforts in keeping us safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association (BHMA)

Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA)

International Door Association (IDA)

Window Covering Manufacturers Association (WCMA)