



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

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March 21, 2020

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

The Associated General Contractors of Alaska (AGC) commends you for your efforts to help control the spread of COVID-19. This is a challenging, frightening and tumultuous time in history, and we all need to work together to balance the many definitions of survival as we work to stop this pandemic.

As an organization, we serve and represent more than 600 contractors, suppliers, engineers, designers, specialty contractors, and manufacturers in Alaska. We are committed to assisting this Administration in defining how we can properly implement and follow CDC's guidelines for the health and safety of every Alaskan. AGC of Alaska has the additional resources of not only AGC of America, but also access to best practices being developed and used by AGC chapters across the country in addressing this crisis and adapting our businesses to the ever-evolving situation. We are available to dialogue (electronically or by teleconference!) with your teams to assist in defining realistic models to protect Alaskan workers who are crucial to our supply chains and infrastructure.

Much of the construction industry is unique in the independent nature of the tasks performed. Our organization and member companies are proactively working to define how to protect our families, employees, owner agencies, vendors, suppliers, and the public while also developing guidelines on how to work under the new definitions of "safe." We are committed to both aspects along with a strong interest in protecting the Alaskan way of life, our supply chains, and our economy to the greatest degree possible.

Please consider AGC as a resource as you evaluate State services and operations. Our member companies are willing to redefine their business models and restructure operations to fulfill contract requirements, safely employ Alaskans who rely on these seasonal jobs, and meet Alaska's infrastructure needs, but we rely on coordination with and services provided by the State to perform that work. We are writing today to express a willingness to creatively work together to avoid closure of essential construction activity and administrative services, while achieving a safe, healthy working environment for all parties who will continue to invigorate our economy.

Construction activity occurs throughout Alaska, serving virtually every community and every other industry in the state. In 2018, Alaska's construction industry directly employed 23,600 workers who earned a total of \$2.2 billion in labor income. Including multiplier effects, statewide construction industry-related employment totaled 41,300 jobs, representing 9% of Alaska's total employment. In total, the construction industry accounted for \$3.3 billion in labor income, 10% of all labor income earned in Alaska in 2018. Only a few Alaska industry sectors have higher average annual wages than construction, and our multiplier effect is significant.

Alaska's economy has taken some hard hits in the last week in oil prices, the service industry, and in tourism. We are certainly not implying that the construction industry is more important than any other industry or that we should be "immune" to certain impacts due to the nature of our work, but we are confident that we can partner with governing agencies for solutions to provide a small amount of stability during unstable times.

We respectfully provide this information to help inform the difficult decisions that you must make, and are ready to partner in defining essential services and creative solutions to protect Alaskan lives and livelihoods. Thank you for your consideration and willingness to partner with our industry.

Sincerely,



Alicia Siira, Executive Director
Associated General Contractors of Alaska

cc: Commissioner Adam Crum, AK DHSS
Commissioner John MacKinnon, AK DOT