



Roofing Contractors Association of Texas



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Governor Abbott:

First, all of us in the Texas roofing industry thank you for all your efforts to protect Texans like us and to support Texas businesses during the unbelievable spread of COVID-19. As you continue to institute, eliminate, and revise state guidance in relation to this crisis, we ask that you consider designating the entire roofing industry and its workers as an “essential business” and as “essential workers”, especially in the advent of a “shelter-in-place” order or similar order.

Currently, when looking across the nation right now, the patchwork of rapidly-evolving municipal and state guidance gives us strong concerns that roofing contractors, manufacturers, distributors, and other industry employees will soon be unable to operate and aid in response to the pandemic. The Texas roofing industry represents a huge business sector in the state that provides critical materials and services to ensure the safety of homes and businesses, including critical infrastructure necessary to defeat COVID-19 such as hospitals, pharmacies, grocery stores, and more.

As this virus continues to spread and as Texas approaches its notoriously destructive storm season, it is vital that the entire roofing industry is empowered to continue to serve and protect Texans during this unprecedented time in our state’s history. Now and in the coming months, our hospitals, homes, pharmacies, and other crucial businesses are going to be relied upon more than ever. We must ensure that these buildings are fully-operational and able to keep Texans safe, indoors, and able to be cared for when necessary.

By classifying the roofing industry and its workers as “essential”, we can maintain our supply chain now, keep our workforce employed and materials moving, and stand at the ready to repair and maintain these essential structures for Texans across the state should calamity befall them.

Rest assured, that our industry is not taking the spread of this infectious disease lightly. We are already employing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and will continue to share best practices with

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our diverse workforce across the state as the situation develops. Further, many in our industry work outside, in small crews, and will be able to complete their much-needed work or repairs with little to no unessential contact.

We hope that your office will strongly consider deeming our entire industry and its workers as “essential” as part of the services we are all going to need to beat this virus. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and all you have done for Texans during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Ramon".

Sarah Ramon
Executive Director