



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina

From: James A. Smith, Jr., PE, Executive Director
Derek L. Clyburn, PE, President
The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina (ACEC/NC)

Date: March 23, 2020

Subject: Maintaining Essential Services

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina (ACEC/NC) made up of over 245 engineering firms in North Carolina, we want to thank you for your leadership and the diligence during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We also thank your Cabinet Secretaries, Department staffs and your staff for all their hard work and dedication during this unprecedented time.

We urge you to support exemptions to any shelter-in-place or quarantine orders for “essential infrastructure” that allows individuals to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the development, operations and maintenance of “essential infrastructure.” These services include, but are not limited to, public works maintenance and construction, airport and transit operations, roads and highways, and general public infrastructure.

Many states have already taken steps to ensure that critical infrastructure projects and related services – including engineering – continue in a manner consistent with protecting human health.

In North Carolina, engineering firms play an essential role in planning, designing, inspecting and maintaining critical infrastructure, including public transportation (roads and bridges), water and wastewater facilities, energy, construction, and other areas of the built environment so important to our daily lives. Engineers are also directly involved in local and municipal project permitting and inspection, as well as commercial and residential development.

Engineering firms are mobilized and working with critical front-line emergency management agencies including FEMA, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and Health industry organizations to quickly develop additional hospital capacity and, in partnership with contractors, to build triage centers to fight the pandemic. Of course, engineering firms that would operate during any shelter in place or quarantine order would take measures to keep employees, clients and the public safe in performing necessary work.

Linda Darr OP-ED: ([see attached](#))

Thank you for your attention and consideration, and please let us know how we can assist you through this challenging time.

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