



March 24, 2020

As we conclude the first day of Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order (EO), there are still many unanswered questions and issues concerning what is and what isn't allowed in residential construction. The Home Builders Association of Michigan is continually trying to get answers to these and to expand the residential construction activities allowed under the Governor's EO. Many of you have asked how you can help in these efforts. We believe the best way to help is by personalizing the effect of the Governor's EO. The Governor is fully aware most other states have totally exempted residential construction from their shelter in place orders and chose not to copy those exemptions. We need legislative leaders to understand this and to help remind her why that is important here too.

**Here's how you can help** as we continue to request the Governor to exempt residential construction from her "Stay Home, Stay Safe" EO.

Please send a polite non-confrontational email to all of the following addresses:

[senmshirkey@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmshirkey@senate.michigan.gov) (Senate Majority Leader)

[senjananich@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senjananich@senate.michigan.gov) (Senate Minority Leader)

[leechatfield@house.mi.gov](mailto:leechatfield@house.mi.gov) (Speaker of the House)

[christinegreig@house.mi.gov](mailto:christinegreig@house.mi.gov) (House Minority Leader)

In your email ask that the State of Michigan quickly move to clarify what residential construction activities can take place.

Ask them to encourage the Governor, when considering possible clarifications to her order, to keep in mind the following five main points:

- New home construction/remodeling should be considered part of the critical infrastructure so that people continue to have habitable places to live now and after the pandemic is over. Half-completed

projects should not be halted because they jeopardize homeowner safety and livability. Jobs in progress and subject to damage from the elements should be allowed to proceed;

- Keeping construction and remodeling activities going during this stay at home order will ensure that the industry (and all its various supply chains) will stay intact to provide needed housing support in other emergencies (storm damage, etc.);
- 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., live video inspections);
- Supply stores 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.

Attach a photo(s) of any project(s) you have that are currently under construction. Explain the real life consequences of leaving these jobs unfinished such as mold, lumber twisting, and turning causing structural issues, spring winds causing exposed trusses to collapse, increased soil erosion and runoff onto streets and the neighbor's property, unsafe open holes in the home, unsupported excavations collapsing and other potential problems. Talk about the financial effects of the Governor's EO, not only in employees who will not be paid but also what it does to your customers who may be paying rent on another dwelling while also paying construction loan payments.

Again, the more you can personalize your email the more impact it will have. Please send a copy of your email to [lee@hbaofmichigan.com](mailto:lee@hbaofmichigan.com).

There is strength in numbers! It is imperative that our 5,000 plus members across the state come together to help carry this message to our state's leaders. Thank you for your help!