**Please copy and paste the following sample letter into the body of the email and send it to Governor Wolf’s Chief of Staff at mbrunelle****@pa.gov****.**

Dear Governor Wolf:

I write to urge you to consider policy proposals to support the housing sector of the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The residential construction industry stands with you during these uncertain times and we look to your leadership to protect and to provide Pennsylvanians with family sustaining jobs.  To help stabilize the housing sector in the near term, I ask you to designate home construction as a “life-sustaining business” in Pennsylvania as your counterparts have done in New York, New Jersey, California, Nevada, Kentucky, and Florida.

As declarations and public health orders are issued as a result of the pandemic, it is essential that all Pennsylvanians have access to our professionals to build and maintain essential services including: building, plumbing, electrical, HVAC systems, waste/wastewater treatment plants and power generations. Home construction should be designated as “essential” because shelter is critical to maintain safety, sanitation, and economic security.

Our industry continues to adhere to public health guidelines set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

New home construction/remodeling must be considered part of the life-sustaining infrastructure so that people continue to have habitable places to live now and after the pandemic is over. Half-completed remodeling projects cannot be halted because they jeopardize homeowner safety and habitability. Similarly, new home projects – those already in the process of construction – also cannot be halted because those home sites invite trespasser injuries, accidental and intentionally set fires, toxic mold, insect infestation, negative environmental impacts, and hazardous waste.  In addition, we’d like to request that you authorize the ability to use remote notarization to allow real estate transactions to continue during the pandemic, like the executive order issued by Governor Cuomo in New York .

We respect the need for your order and appreciate your continued leadership during this crisis. We also appreciate your willingness to promptly review requests for waivers to allow critical functions to continue in the Commonwealth in a responsible manner.

Very Truly Yours,