



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**COVID-19 – Construction Industry Safety Measures and Modified Operations**

Dear Governor Hogan:

On behalf of the NAIOP Maryland Chapters, representing more than 700 companies involved in all aspects of commercial, industrial and mixed-use real estate, I am writing regarding the steps our member companies are taking to implement best practices to maintain safety and control the spread of Coronavirus [COVID-19] on active construction sites.

Even under ordinary circumstances, the health and safety of the public, employees, vendors and subcontractors is the top priority of our member companies. In response to COVID-19 the existing framework used to communicate and implement job site safety has been adjusted to include new protocols based on guidance from the CDC, OSHA and the Maryland Department of Health to identify risks and take appropriate control measures. The framework generally includes a hierarchy of engineering, administrative, safe work practices and use of protective equipment.

Our members have also been working with local building officials on adjustments to plans review and modified field inspection protocols. In cases where the building official are unable to make required inspections, we recommend that code provisions [IBC 104.4 - Inspections] authorizing the use of approved 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspectors be authorized.

During this time of unprecedented public health and economic crisis, our members know and expect that you will take whatever actions you believe to be in the best interests of Marylanders. Safely maintaining construction services through these challenging times is very important to our customers as well as the designers, vendors and subcontractors that comprise our project teams. Obviously in recent days cities and some states have taken a range of decisions from designating construction activities as *essential services*, to permitting only a specified scope of work to enacting a comprehensive construction moratorium. If events dictate a change in status for active construction sites, we respectfully request that NAIOP and other stakeholders in the construction industry be consulted so that excavation, overhead work, utilities, site security and other transitional issues can be addressed in an orderly fashion.

On behalf of our member companies thank you for the leadership you and your administration are providing.

Sincerely,

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy  
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -*The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health  
Tiffany P. Robinson, Secretary of Labor  
Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary of Commerce