



March 20, 2020

Governor Tim Walz
Speaker of the House Hortman
Senate Majority Leader Gazelka
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor, Majority Leader and Speaker:

On behalf of the Building Jobs Coalition – representing design and engineering firms, construction contractors and building trades, that make up the design and construction industry we appreciate your leadership and your focus on the health, safety and welfare of all Minnesotans during this difficult time.

We encourage you to finish the 2020 Minnesota Legislative session strong by focusing on investing in Minnesota people and projects. **A robust bonding bill that meets Minnesota’s infrastructure needs can be the economic stimulus needed to jump start the state’s economy**, and especially the design and construction industry, after the worst of the coronavirus impacts have passed. Funding for needed asset preservation, public building projects, local economic development, and safe water, roads, bridges, and transit systems will better serve Minnesota communities and businesses and help get goods to market and put Minnesotans to work.

For the very near term, we want to work with you to keep both public and private projects moving forward. We are prepared to marshal our collective industry resources to ensure our workforce can meet the challenge.

Asset preservation and maintenance projects are particularly well suited for the very near term. This work can be effectively done while buildings are emptied due to social distancing. The design and construction industry is committed to – and licensed and trained to ensure – health safety and welfare, and the augmentation of standard OSHA practices in the context of pandemic concerns is within our capacity to implement.

Keeping a solid pipeline of pre-design, design, and construction projects maintained is key, as is the retention of our labor force to implement those projects. We need to make strong efforts to hold onto our talent pool in the building industry in order to meet the current and future needs of the State and local communities. During the last recession, not enough measures were taken quickly enough to keep people employed in the building industry labor force. A great many who lost their jobs we’re not able to return to the industry. Continuity matters for the State’s business to be done efficiently and well in the realm of public building projects that serve the people of Minnesota.

Building Jobs Coalition, 525 Park Street,
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Again, thank you for your leadership. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the health, safety, and economic success of our industry and the State.

Coalition Co-Chairs:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Looman". The script is fluid and cursive.

Jessica Looman, Minnesota Building & Construction Trades Council
jlooman@mnrtrades.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Worke". The script is bold and cursive.

Tim Worke (Associated General Contractors of Minnesota)
tworke@agcmn.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Margaret Zindren". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Mary Margaret Zindren, American Institute of Architects Minnesota)
zindren@aia-mn.org