

March 23, 2020



The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
State Capitol P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711
RE: Texas Factory-Built Home Industry and COVID-19

Dear Governor Abbott:

We are grateful for your continued leadership and efforts combatting our current health crisis. We also understand the tremendous difficulty facing this state, and the heavy burden and demands placed on you and your office.

The Texas Manufactured Housing Association represents all aspects of the manufactured, modular, and factory-built housing industry of Texas. We understand you are receiving constant letters and calls from various industries asking that they be added to the designation of critical industries/essential services and exempted to the shelter-in-place orders that are occurring throughout the state. Our industry understands the important balance of public safety coupled with maintaining critical services.

It is in the context of these difficult times that we ask that you include residential housing construction, and within that category also factory-built housing and retail operations, as one of the enumerated critical services to remain operational state-wide during these most difficult times.

Our recommendation is based simply on the assertion that housing is one of the most critical industries during a disaster. Supply of shelter, the ability to deploy it, as well as maintaining the necessary labor, logistics, supply lines, and distribution lines of factory-built homes in the event that our industry is called upon to produce emergency units is all predicated on our ability to remain operating from the factory down to the retailers who are necessary for the transportation, installation, finish-out, and title work.

Additionally, our titling system is done on a state-wide basis out of the MH Division of TDHCA. As such, it is also critical that the titling aspect of that division remain operational for the flow of title transactions to continue. This division is housed in Austin, Texas and could be subject to the Travis County shelter-in-place order that without additional guidance could be deemed non-essential and thus shut down.

We appreciate any consideration you can provide for us during this critical time. We stand ready to help and assist you and our fellow Texans. If you need to harness the capacity of our 23 plants in Texas for housing, shelter, or other emergency services, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

DJ Pendleton, Executive Director
Texas Manufactured Housing Association