



April 21, 2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

On behalf of the 100+ Michigan consulting engineering firms represented by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC/Michigan) and the over 6,000 engineers, architects, surveyors and other professionals they employ, we thank you for your leadership in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this time of crisis, maintaining the state's critical infrastructure remains essential. Since Michigan's first case on March 10, our firms continue to provide exemplary engineering services while working remotely and following CDC recommendations to protect against the spread of COVID-19. Although a good portion of our work is being done remotely, the engineering community is also working safely and effectively in the field to collect data for future projects and to oversee the construction of critical infrastructure projects while practicing social distancing.

As the number of new COVID-19 cases begin to decline, we urge you to open all construction projects in Michigan, while maintaining strict adherence to safety protocols that protect workers. Our industry has demonstrated that we can continue to rebuild Michigan's infrastructure while following safe distance protocols and adhering to CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Constructing new hospitals, improving learning facilities for K-12 and college students, preserving clean drinking water, expanding Michigan's broadband network and allowing business and residential infrastructure improvements are all essential to restoring Michigan's economy and providing a good quality of life for our residents.

Again, thank you for your hard work and leadership in these challenging times. Please know that ACEC/Michigan member firms are appreciative of the difficult decisions you have had to make to protect Michiganders from the spread of COVID-19. In the coming weeks, we stand ready to put our talented teams of engineers, technicians and administrative staff back to work on new and existing construction projects. We are following the recommendations of health experts and establishing detailed COVID-19 worksite safety plans and protocols to prepare and protect every individual. We understand that things are different now, and will be, until an anti-viral or vaccine is available to everyone that prevents or reduces the impacts of this virus. But we also know that we must take steps to get people back to work to protect and improve our economy.

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If we can provide assistance to your administration as we reopen the state's economy, or need expertise related to infrastructure design or construction, please do not hesitate to contact me at 517-256-1257.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ron Brenke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ronald W. Brenke, PE, Executive Director
American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan