



Allowing Residential Construction to Resume

May 4, 2020

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
NYS Governor
NYS Capital Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write today in support of the New York Builders Association's (NYBA) request to allow residential construction to resume under uniform guidance in response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak here in New York. By allowing residential builders to get back to work, we can make the most of the construction season and save over 8,000 jobs.

While we fully understand the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak and the need for your comprehensive New York Pause initiative, unfortunately Long Island's housing crisis does not. It is important that we continue to build one and two-family homes across our respective townships.

We applaud your efforts to work with our neighboring states to present uniformed policies on essential business. However, construction of residential housing does not appear to be in line with our neighbors. Per NYBA's request:

Residential construction is considered an essential industry in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Delaware. New Jersey similar to New York initially considered residential construction as essential. It however changed to non-essential allowing continuation of single-family homes under construction or in an individual apartment unit where an individual already re-sides, or where there is an agreement to occupy by a certain date. None of these states have shut down worksites as New York has.

We believe that with adherence to social distancing, use of proper PPE, and disinfection protocols that construction projects can and should move forward without significant health concerns. This will allow us to continue to address the housing needs of our constituencies, keep thousands of Long Islanders working, and even stimulate the local economy as these workers patronize businesses on their lunch breaks.

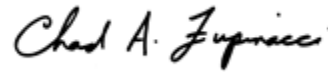
We would like to thank you for you and your staff's hard work during this crisis and willingness to listen to our various requests and input. Together, Suffolk County and all of New York State will persevere in this unprecedented situation.

Suffolk County
Supervisors
Association

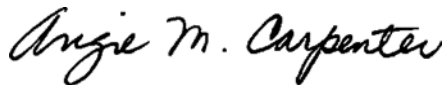
Sincerely,



Rich Schaffer
Supervisor, Town of Babylon
Chair, Suffolk County Supervisors Association



Chad A. Lupinacci
Supervisor, Town of Huntington



Angie Carpenter
Supervisor, Town of Islip



Edward R. Wehrheim
Supervisor, Town of Smithtown



Edward P. Romaine
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Yvette Aguiar
Supervisor, Town of Riverhead



Jay Schneiderman
Supervisor, Town of Southampton



Scott Russell
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Gerry Siller
Supervisor, Town of Shelter Island