



March 27, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
 Governor of New York State
 NYS State Capitol Building
 Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

First, we would like to thank you for your efforts during this current crisis. In these unprecedented times, you have provided strong, steady leadership and set a positive example recognized nationwide.

Earlier today, your administration issued updated orders related to New York’s construction industry. Effective today, all non-essential construction is ordered to cease operations. While we understand the importance of safety, the state must also recognize the exceptional burden this will be for our state’s construction businesses and their workers.

In light of this development, we are writing to again urge that you oppose an expansion of the state’s prevailing wage mandates on to private construction projects. Under normal circumstances, we firmly believe this proposal is bad policy; advancing these costly mandates now would be devastating.

Construction companies and other private businesses are fighting to survive this crisis. Expanding the state’s prevailing wage mandates to private construction will dramatically increase costs and make survival even more difficult. A recent study commissioned by the Statewide Coalition for Smart Development (attached)

found that expanded prevailing wage mandates would increase costs by an average of 30% statewide. These increases would severely impede efforts to restart our economy after this crisis.

Instead of passing new mandates, we urge you and the state to work together with the private sector to rebuild our state's economy. That work can begin with rejecting an expanded prevailing wage mandate in the upcoming state budget.

Again, we thank you for your strong leadership during this crisis. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to working with you and your administration during this difficult period.

Sincerely,

The 400 Foundation

Associated Builders and Contractors Empire Chapter

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Business Council of Westchester

Capital Region Chamber of Commerce

Food Industry Alliance of New York State

Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce

Long Island Association

Long Island Builders Institute

Minority & Women Contractors & Developers Association

New York State Builders Association

New York State Economic Development Council

New York Farm Bureau

NFIB

North Country Chamber of Commerce

Northeastern Retail Lumber Association

Unshackle Upstate

CC: Robert Mujica, Director, New York State Division of the Budget
Elizabeth Garvey, Counsel to the Governor
Hon. Andrea Stewart Cousins, NYS Senate Majority Leader
Hon. Carl Heastie, NYS Assembly Speaker
Hon. John Flanagan, NYS Senate Minority Leader
Hon. Will Barclay, NYS Assembly Minority Leader
NYS Senate
NYS Assembly