



March 18, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Roy Cooper
North Carolina State Capitol

Dear Governor Cooper,

On behalf of the more than 48,000 NC REALTORS®, we commend you for your leadership and the incredible diligence during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We also thank your Cabinet Secretaries, Department staffs and your staff for all their hard work and dedication during this unprecedented time.

The timeline of this pandemic and all the potential repercussions are unknown. In addition to health and safety concerns, our Association is also concerned about the potential impacts this will have on homeowners and other property owners who are in the process of buying and selling property, and therefore on the economy of North Carolina through the devastation of the real estate market.

With more shutdowns of and limitations on local and state government services to come, we respectfully request that you minimize the potential interruptions to the real estate industry by declaring real estate services as essential under the emergency powers declaration.

These steps have been taken by other states and even county governments in North Carolina, like Buncombe County, to recognize and include essential operations vital to a real estate transaction. These services include, but are not limited to, title searches, permitting, inspections, construction, and especially the transfer and recordation of ownership.

The ability to close real estate transactions includes certain requirements and deadlines. The impact, both on the lives and finances of property owners, is substantial and can be avoided if essential services are allowed to be continued. There will be enough economic harm from this pandemic without adding the shutdown of real estate transactions.

NC REALTORS® is working with our local associations to closely monitor and assist local governments in their efforts to keep these functions proceeding. However, if more shutdowns are required by Executive Order, they may not be able to do so. Thus, we implore you to include real estate services provided by the public and private sector as essential services. We also ask that all services you deem essential be exempt from additional or stricter local restrictions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We understand this pandemic will have an impact on the real estate industry and the economy. But if we can keep the processes running as smoothly as possible, we can work together to limit the negative effects on our State and its citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maren Brisson-Kuester".

Maren Brisson-Kuester
2020 NC REALTORS® President

ncrealtors.org

Greensboro | 4511 Weybridge Lane | Greensboro, NC 27407 | 336.294.1415
Raleigh | 3801 Computer Drive | Suite 104 | Raleigh, NC 27609 | 919.856.9155