



MICHIGAN REALTORS®

March 19, 2020

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of the more than 34,000 Michigan REALTORS®, we commend you for your leadership and the incredible diligence during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We also thank your department directors and state government workers for their hard work and dedication during this unprecedented time.

The timeline of the COVID -19 pandemic and its effects are still unknown. In addition to health and safety, Michigan REALTORS® is also concerned about the impact that we are already seeing on homeowners and businesses in the process of buying and selling property, and therefore a primary driver of Michigan's economy.

With the potential of more shutdowns and limitations on local and state government services we respectfully request that you minimize the potential interruptions to the real estate market by declaring real estate services as essential. These steps have been taken by other states to recognize and include essential operations vital to a real estate transaction. These services include, but are not limited to: permitting, financial, appraisal, inspections, construction, title work, and especially the transfer and recording of deeds and other instruments.

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 these essential services are allowed to continue.

Michigan REALTORS® is working with our local associations and members to educate them on virus and how to work with their clients to stay safe and healthy, while helping them work through the delays making themselves present in the market. Government plays a large role in the transfer of property and in many areas, shutdowns are prohibiting buyers and sellers from closing, putting them in financial harm. It is for this reason that we also ask that the real estate services you deem essential be exempt from local government closures.

We understand this pandemic is already having an impact on the real estate industry and the economy. We look forward to working together to limit the negative effects on Michigan and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Maureen Francis  
2020 President  
Michigan REALTORS®