



# Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform

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March 24, 2020

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Hon. Ben Carson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Suite 10000  
451 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20410

Re: Federal COVID-19 Response -- Manufactured Housing

Dear Secretary Carson:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform (MHARR). MHARR members, as you know, are mostly smaller, independent producers of federally-regulated manufactured housing located throughout the United States.

As smaller businesses which, in many cases, are family-owned, these independent producers of affordable HUD Code manufactured housing face unique and daunting challenges in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and the unavoidable economic dislocation occasioned by the strong measures needed to combat both its spread and duration within the United States.

Notwithstanding these pressures, the independent manufactured housing producers that we represent in the nation's capital stand ready to do their part, wherever and whenever needed -- by any level of government or as part of a private sector initiative -- to provide the type of inherently affordable, rapidly-deployable housing, shelter and related facilities that may be necessary to help the American people meet the challenges they face today and to recover, as rapidly as possible, once the pandemic begins to recede.

In order, however, to maintain the industry's essential infrastructure (including both facilities and people) to the greatest possible degree, to meet this need and the future housing needs of the nation, we urge you to take all steps necessary and proper to: (1) ensure that the production, sale, transportation and installation of federally-regulated manufactured homes are treated as "essential" economic activity for all purposes at all levels of government; (2) ensure that federally-regulated manufactured housing is included in any and all relevant government response programs or initiatives; and (3) ensure that manufactured home producers are eligible for all available forms of economic relief provided to other "essential" industries and small businesses in particular.

The manufactured housing industry has a long history of “stepping-up” to meet the nation’s housing needs in times of crisis and emergency. That commitment remains as strong today as it ever has. Our members look forward to the opportunity to serve America and Americans as our nation meets and overcomes the current challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Weiss', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Weiss  
President and CEO

cc: Hon. Mike Pence