



March 20, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of the Florida Apartment Association (FAA), thank you for your timely and effective measures to protect Floridians during the unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak. In the event a “shelter-in-place” policy becomes necessary, FAA respectfully requests that you consider elements of the multi-family housing industry to be “essential.”

FAA understands the importance of stable, reliable, quality housing especially during this public health crisis. Now more than ever, apartment residents need a home in which to isolate and an ability to rely on the important functions of the multi-family industry to make sure that their home remains in good repair. Maintenance workers, either contractual or in house, must continue to respond to necessary or emergency maintenance requests, such as: water leaks, clogged toilets, or broken refrigerators. Similarly, management office personnel must remain available to house new residents in need or respond to resident concerns. In addition, businesses that support the apartment industry, such as cleaning services and restoration companies, must be able to continue to perform enhanced cleanings in multifamily communities to protect apartment residents.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) issued guidance intending “to support State, Local and industry partners in identifying the critical infrastructure sectors and the essential workers needed to maintain the services and functions Americans depend on daily and need to be able to operate resiliently during the COVID-19 pandemic response.” Per CISA, “Real Estate” (e.g., office and apartment buildings, condominiums, mixed use facilities, self-storage) is a subsector of the “Commercial Facilities Sector” and therefore essential. Please refer to: <https://www.cisa.gov/commercial-facilities-sector> for more information regarding CISA’s recommendations.

Again, we want to stress how much we appreciate your tireless efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect Floridians. As you continue to evaluate this evolving and complex situation, we encourage you to prioritize the health and safety of apartment residents by deeming housing providers, their employees, including maintenance technicians, suppliers and servicers to the industry to be deemed as “essential” in the event that shelter in place actions are initiated statewide.

Again, thank you for your service. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if FAA can be of service to you or your team during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Gold" clearly distinguishable.

Josh Gold, CAE, CMP
Executive Vice President
Florida Apartment Association
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