



5750 Lincoln Dr
Edina, MN 55436

March 23, 2020

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

On March 20, I submitted a letter to you with respect to the difficult decision you may have to make in the coming days regarding a potential “shelter-in-place” order to address the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighting the importance of deeming real estate services as “essential” in any such order to allow real estate transactions to continue during the “shelter-in-place” time-period.

As you consider which businesses and services will be deemed “essential,” Minnesota Realtors® asks you to consider the myriad ways in which consumers who are currently engaged in a real estate transaction will be adversely affected if real estate services are halted. At this time, our understanding is seven states have deemed real estate services as “essential” in their Executive Orders.

Currently in Minnesota, we have 10,044 pending transactions. This means if real estate services are halted, over 20,000 Minnesota families will be affected.

Examples of the serious problems and disruption consumers could experience with their housing stability if real estate services are halted include:

- Renters that have given notice to their landlord and will be unable to move into a new apartment or home
- Homeowners/renters that have transferred in/out of Minnesota and need to find housing
- Property owners that have closed on their home and must vacate the property but have not yet found, or closed on, a new property
- Property owners that need the proceeds from the sale of their property for another urgent purpose

We support our elected officials and health agencies in their efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. This morning, Minnesota Realtors® advised all Realtors® in the state that they should not hold open houses at this time. Our members and their clients are committed to doing their part.

Again, Minnesota Realtors® stands ready to assist you, your staff, and the Legislature as you work through these issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Galler", written over a white background.

Chris Galler
CEO
Minnesota Realtors®

Cc: Speaker Hortman
Minority Leader Daudt
Majority Leader Gazelka
Minority Leader Kent
Commissioner Steve Kelley